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PRAVDA Interviews Bessmertnykh on Goals, Outlook

PM3001170991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
31 Jan 91 First Edition p 5

["Interview for PRAVDA" with USSR Foreign Minister A.A. Bessmertnykh by TASS and PRAVDA correspondents V. Gan, V. Matyash in Washington; date not given: "A.A. Bessmertnykh: 'Widening the Circle of Good-Neighborliness'"]

[Text] Washington—The major Soviet diplomat A.A. Bessmertnykh has become head of the USSR Foreign Ministry at a crucial period in international relations, as a new era of broad international cooperation and collaboration takes the place of the late and unlamented cold war. He is 57 years old, and he has devoted 34 of those years to the Soviet diplomatic service. He has come a long way—from ordinary Foreign Ministry employee to head of the Soviet foreign policy department. At the end of his talks in Washington, he gave us his first interview.

[PRAVDA] Aleksandr Aleksandrovich, you have succeeded to this post during an exceptionally crucial period. Could you share with us your view of the processes currently taking place in the world?

[Bessmertnykh] I think that in our foreign policy after the end of World War II much was predetermined by what I call the nuclear paradox. By that I mean that the traditional policy avenues were somewhat distorted by the demands of ensuring security in light of the nuclear factor. That is why such enormous attention was devoted to relations with countries possessing nuclear arsenals. All this was absolutely necessary, but at the same time, in my view, the traditional relations with our neighbors were to some extent pushed into the background. I think that now that we have entered a new stage, the stage of arms reduction, the strategic balance of forces, and parity, it is necessary—without belittling the significance of our relations with the United States and the other great powers—to devote greater attention to countries directly adjacent to our state.

In other words, it is necessary to widen the circle of good-neighborliness, placing the emphasis on tackling economic, social, and cultural tasks. This is one line, and it seems to me that it should fall into the category of supreme national state interests. The country must not be isolated. There is also a second line—that of relations not only with contiguous states, but also with the other leading countries of the world. Many people see it like this: Because of our domestic problems, it has become more difficult for us to pursue an active policy, and in regions like, say, Latin America, Africa, and the Pacific, that policy should be curtailed. In my opinion, we should maintain the same active, dynamic thrust in our foreign policy as at present.

I have always thought and think now that the link between domestic and foreign policy is not only philosophical in nature—not for nothing is it said that politics is the concentrated expression of economics. This is true, this is the philosophical, conceptual aspect of the matter. But there is also a purely concrete, day-to-day link between domestic and foreign policy. There are two aspects here. The first is well-known to everyone. Foreign policy does much to help domestic policy by creating favorable conditions for perestroyka and for all the reforms we are carrying out. But it must not be forgotten that domestic policy is also capable either of helping foreign policy, by pushing it forward very actively and acting as a strong, reliable backup, or of making it very much more difficult. Unfortunately this latter circumstance is in evidence. What do I have in mind specifically? All our difficulties, which are weakening the country, do, of course, prompt a response abroad. Take the Baltic region, for instance. It is easy to give way to emotion. And that is what is happening in the West. But it is important to seek to understand the real meaning of what is happening and the Soviet leadership's real mood. I will tell you frankly that during my visit the Baltic region has figured very substantially, along with other matters. It has figured mainly because people in the West do not have a very clear understanding of what is happening there. They are inclined to look at events superficially, without going into their origins or details. That is to say, it is mainly a question of an emotional response. I fully realize that this reaction is entitled to exist. We too regret what has happened. But you have to find out why events are taking this particular turn. Why is it that the inclination toward dialogue, displayed by M.S. Gorbachev, does not work in Lithuania, and yet is working in Latvia and Estonia? Why in any case do the republics seeking independence not follow the constitutional path? After all, no one is saying that the path to independence is impossible. And therefore the West should be more attentive and cautious in its assessments. It is very easy to make yourself look foolish in politics. But it is necessary to relate everything to the changes that have taken place in Europe and the fundamental changes in the world arena. It is dangerous and unforgivable to waste efforts on expressing emotion about events. Especially since everything could take place in those republics within the framework of the constitution. So in our foreign policy we should take account first and foremost of security considerations, that is, our relations with the nuclear powers, which have mighty military structures, and of the economic factor—we have an interest in ensuring that our country is surrounded by partners, not adversaries. The world is interdependent. No country can take care of itself entirely, and that is true of the United States too. Political contacts and friendliness have to develop. When we speak of deideologized relations we do not mean that there should be no political links at all. We simply should not see relations between states through the filter of stereotyped ideological perceptions, as was the case previously.

For instance, some countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America were seen as close to us only because their leaders said things which sounded ideologically pleasing to us. That is, the ideological factor operated to a greater extent. But later we discovered that we had formed a

distorted idea of the true situation. Important, large states which had wanted to develop relations with us were left somewhere to one side. And other countries, also, incidentally, respected countries, suddenly acquired some special status simply because their leaders had made statements which were more pleasing from the ideological viewpoint. We have now eliminated all that from our diplomacy. Our relations with states are of the broadest nature.

It is sometimes asserted that our actions in the field of disarmament have weakened us. That, of course, is a surprisingly unprofessional view, although it sometimes issues from very professional circles. After all, when we are seeking to eliminate military-political confrontation that is the most important factor for safeguarding security. What point is there in stockpiling as many weapons as possible and only making enemies? I believe that this option is absolutely unacceptable and extremely dangerous. When we stop holding Pershing missiles to a country's head, when the most inveterate foes first become opponents and then neutral, and after that perhaps even partners—that evolution in my view is a very useful business.

[PRAVDA] But let us nonetheless return to the second part of our question. How would you assess the present state of Soviet-U.S. relations?

[Bessmertnykh] I have believed and continue to believe that we must view them as critically important for a number of reasons. First, the United States is also a superpower on which the nature of the world situation depends. As is obvious, it leads the Western world and naturally our relations with it to a certain degree—but not, of course 100 percent—predetermine Soviet diplomacy's approaches toward other states too. That country should undoubtedly occupy a central place in our foreign policy but should not overshadow everything else. I think that the Americans also look at us in the same way and realize that we too are a central figure in world politics. My concept is that, while recognizing the United States' key role in our relations, we should not view it as a force which dominates all else. All other regions should also play their part and have their own importance. And relations with other countries should by no means be in the shadow of Soviet-U.S. relations. We have now reached a level of trust and frankness with the United States when we can speak specifically about things which we do not like or which we oppose. The very tone of dialogue now is conducive to sharing our mutual concerns frankly and even expressing ourselves on the most delicate issues.

[PRAVDA] Aleksandr Aleksandrovich, there is currently talk in America about some kind of slump in Soviet-U.S. relations, about the possibility of a retreat to the position of the second half of the 1970's, when, as is known, our two countries moved away from the policy of "detente." What could you say on this?

[Bessmertnykh] Nothing can be ruled out. There is no guaranteed course of events. But I believe that we have already reached a level of relations with the United States and the West as a whole that will ensure qualitative changes in these relations and be capable of indeed making the 21st century a century of a completely different world community.

The period between the end of the "cold war" and the present qualitatively new stage is still very short. We are surrounded by people in whom "cold war" thinking is still strong. I believe that people in our country were wrong when talking about the end of the "cold war" and a transition to a period of broad, active, and even absolute partnership. I believe that there has to be a transitional period between the "cold war" period and such a developed period of partnership. This is natural, because it is necessary to unlearn the "cold war" cliches that still determine the mindsets of politicians, legislators, and the public. An absolute chance exists for bringing world relations, including our relations with the United States, to a qualitatively new stage.

Dangers remain. Particularly if the other side is going to get locked into a purely emotional reaction and succumb to considerations of short-term political expediency while losing sight of the real probability of the destruction of the historical tendency toward positive world development. All this is happening, unfortunately. Therefore our diplomacy, our foreign policy must instill vigilance and be a dynamic force for the very reason that nothing in this world is guaranteed. They have a good chance, a good basis; a foundation for normal human life has been created. But everything needs to be protected, and this is what we are currently engaged in.

[PRAVDA] During the talks with the American side you discussed questions on the finalization of the strategic offensive arms limitation treaty. It is reported that both sides are virtually in despair because of lack of progress. What, nevertheless, were the results of the discussion?

[Bessmertnykh] There was no despair. On the contrary, I am profoundly satisfied with the way everything has turned out. It is better to take the step of postponing the summit than to make a mess of such a major measure. The circumstances clearly make it necessary—the conflict in the Persian Gulf, the need to do more work on the START treaty. Incidentally, I want to make the point that when we—both sides—declared that additional work was needed on the treaty, this should in no way have been interpreted as a sign of any crisis in our efforts to complete it. We have just a few unresolved questions left. It is simply that, when we counted the days we had left until the Moscow meeting and then looked at the vast bulk of the treaty remaining to be finalized textually and amended in detail it became clear that, although we could indeed resolve the problems, there was not time to do so before the start of the summit. Looking at it practically, we are in a position to complete work on the treaty in the next two-to-three weeks. In other words, we

have made progress, and the delays are due to purely technical causes. There is no crisis. We are going to try to progress the matter further.

[PRAVDA] Have your talks here touched on the possibility of any Western economic sanctions in response to events in the Baltic region?

[Bessmertnykh] I was reading and hearing about all that before I came here. The question of sanctions was not raised directly. Indeed, the actual word was not used even once. There was reference to the fact that the West would like to signal its dissatisfaction with the course of events in the Baltic republics. It is important to note here that emotions are obscuring the need to examine what policy the USSR Government is actually pursuing. Yes, of course, events are occurring outside the control either of the president or indeed of the local authorities. The situation is inflamed, and sometimes this is deliberately exacerbated by certain leaders wanting to extract personal advantage from dramatizing it. Under these conditions, anything can happen.

In short, there was a conversation on that subject. I believe that the level of relations attained permits us to talk about any subject.

[PRAVDA] What is your thinking on the regional conflicts? The war in the Persian Gulf region is only one of the hot spots on the planet. Is there a possibility of Soviet-American collaboration to douse the flames of these conflicts?

[Bessmertnykh] Well, in my view people should not pin all hopes on the USSR and the United States or make out that everything depends precisely on them. Resolving conflicts is a matter for the states in conflict, but where it is possible to play a positive role both our countries are ready to help. However, it is still very important to reinforce the United Nations and to defer to it in the settlement of regional conflicts rather than become involved in those conflicts ourselves.

[PRAVDA] The world stands on the threshold of the 21st century. How do you see our immediate future?

[Bessmertnykh] It is hard to engage in forecasts. But I do believe the bipolar world is nearing an end and becoming multipolar. And that is a highly positive development. In Soviet-American relations stability has been achieved, a certain level of mutual understanding has been achieved. Unfortunately our collaboration lacks, so to speak, a reinforced concrete foundation. But there is a base, and it is quite a strong one.

I want to observe, too, that despite everything we are moving away from the idea of the need for excessive armament. The world is starting to pay more attention to resolving socioeconomic and ecological problems. So that different trends are emerging in politics. And thank God for that. Our diplomacy is already catching these trends and starting to give them prominence in its work.

[Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 31 January 1991 carries in its Second Edition on page 5 a second version of the interview with USSR Foreign Minister A.A. Bessmertnykh which adds the following passage:

"Will there be conflicts in the future? Probably yes. But now we are engaged in very important work, creating precedents of ways to deal with them. The Persian Gulf situation is contradictory. It was very difficult for us to adopt this option of behavior. But it was necessary to do this because right now a precedent is being created of how to deal with aggressions. The fact that the international community has united in attitudes toward this aggression indicates the promising nature of this type of actions. The idea of security must incorporate not only a factor like, for example, the quantity of barrels, whether missile or artillery barrels, but also the entire package of state might, which includes society's economy and social stability. I wish to emphasize that the Soviet foreign policy course is fully geared toward ensuring that events develop peacefully, along peaceful tracks. This will help us to concentrate on the solution of our complex domestic problems."]

UN Commission Delegate Speaks on Human Rights

LD3001202991 Moscow TASS in English 1952 GMT 30 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents Vitaliy Makarchev and Boris Shabayev]

[Text] Geneva January 30 TASS—The 47th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights began under conditions which considerably differ from the international atmosphere of optimism and hopes in recent years. "But in this field as well, our country firmly supports international efforts towards the exercise of human rights," chief Soviet delegate at the session Yuriy Reshetov told a news conference here today.

"We proceed from the possibility and the need to deepen constructive cooperation in the field of human rights which, as it seems to us, increasingly supersedes confrontational attitudes in this sphere," he said.

The recently adopted Soviet laws on citizenship, the freedom of conscience, the freedom of the press, on public and trade union organisations are intended to contribute to broadening democracy, Reshetov said.

One can now say that lawmaking in the humanitarian sphere is practised in accordance with the Soviet Union's commitment under the international covenants on human rights and the final document of the Vienna follow-up meeting on the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

"We also consider this work as a certain stage on the way to a Moscow humanitarian conference—the third and concluding phase, after Paris and Copenhagen sessions, of the conference on human dimension within the framework of the CSCE process.

"At the same time movement in this direction takes place under conditions of an aggravated situation in the socio-economic field, which inevitably brings about tension and tells on the atmosphere in society as a whole.

"The latest events in the Baltic republics took a tragic turn and led to loss of life. Competent bodies are engaged in work to establish the guilt of people involved in performing violent actions. The circumstances connected with the use of weapons are being thoroughly investigated.

"The events develop in an atmosphere of the deepest crisis and the overall atmosphere of lawlessness that took shape there. The adoption of a whole series of normative acts that are a violation of basic internationally recognised rights of the individual became one of the most dangerous manifestations of that.

"Statements by the leadership of the Baltic republics about their commitment to the lofty international norms concerning human rights turned out to be only declarations in actual fact.

"Overt discrimination against the so-called non-indigenous, or Russian-speaking population, as well as against their own indigenous population from political motives is practised in their legislative policy.

"This discrimination is practised on the strength of the laws on the language, citizenship, the introduction of residential qualification for participation in elections, property, the introduction of death penalty for dissent, and brings about tension and instability in the Baltic republics.

"The Baltic republics' problems, of course, should be tackled by the Soviet people themselves and only by political means," Reshetov emphasised.

He also drew the attention of numerous journalists and human rights experts who attended the news conference to President Mikhail Gorbachev's statement dated January 22, this year, in connection with issues raised in the Western media.

The presidential statement said that "neither domestic nor foreign policy has undergone changes" and that the Soviet Union consistently carries on the policy of deepening perestroika.

"Our country," Reshetov said, "is for human rights to be the focus of both foreign and domestic policies of all states and for appropriate norms and principles of contemporary international law to acquire a genuinely universal character."

United States & Canada

Baker Receives Visiting Moscow Mayor Popov

LD3001204891 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Jan 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has received Valeriy Popov, chairman of the Moscow Soviet, who has arrived in Washington on a private visit. The Moscow mayor recounted in detail the changes which have taken place in the USSR in recent months.

During the conversation economic aid from the West was discussed and the situation in the Baltics was touched on briefly. There was an exchange of opinions on the development of military actions in the Persian Gulf region. The discussions which took place, according to a State Department report, were marked by their concreteness and forthrightness.

Reports Continue on U.S. Role in Gulf War

General Denies Revealing Secrets

LD3001115791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1110 GMT 30 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Jan (TASS)—"The Soviet Union has not provided and is not providing the United States with any kind of secret information about Iraq's military potential," Army General Mikhail Moiseyev, chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces has stated.

At the request of a TASS correspondent he commented today on the recent publication in the U.S. newspaper PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER of an article under the sensational caption "Soviets Render USA Significant Military Aid." Citing anonymous sources in the Pentagon and in U.S. military intelligence, this article asserts that the Soviet Union allegedly passed on to the United States "whole volumes of secret information" about Soviet weaponry supplied to Iraq. It speaks of the "incredible" scale of Soviet-U.S. cooperation, and that the information provided to the Pentagon by the relevant military bodies of our country proved a decisive factor in the first days of the war.

General Moiseyev recalled that similar conjectures, in circulation since August last year had been categorically swept aside by the USSR even then. The USSR Ministry of Defense stated that on the strength of the existing treaty obligations to Iraq and in keeping with established practice in this sphere of international relations, there can be no question of passing on secret information concerning Iraq's military potential to anyone.

"This stand by our country remains immutable," stressed the chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, who also answers for the work of the Main Intelligence Directorate.

Allied Success Blamed on Leaks

PM3001124391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 91 Union Edition p 4

[Report by correspondent A. Shalnev: "What Is Behind the Information Leak?"]

[Text] New York—The newspaper THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER has caused a sensation. Citing anonymous sources in the Pentagon and military intelligence, it announced Saturday that "the Soviet Union had offered the United States a large quantity of secret information on those arms in Iraq's arsenal which came from the USSR. This information has facilitated to a significant degree allied troop successes" in the war in the Persian Gulf.

"It is highly unlikely that the Soviets would cooperate on such a level," a U.S. Army intelligence official said. "It would be like giving out the combination to a safe-locking device."

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER mentions that almost all Iraqi air defense systems, all antiaircraft weaponry, radars, and communication equipment were produced in the Soviet Union.

According to information received by the newspaper, this information was disclosed to the United States by the Main Intelligence Directorate of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff. A U.S. Air Force general, who asked to remain anonymous, said that this information "has allowed us to reduce our losses" during the air raids on Iraqi military targets. By Friday, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER stresses, the allies and the United States had lost in total 17 of their aircraft, whereas Pentagon estimations prior to the war put expected losses at five times that number.

Mark Mansfield, CIA press secretary, was asked by the newspaper's correspondents for explanations but refrained from commenting. "We never comment on supposition about our relations with other countries in the intelligence sphere," he said.

In principle, the report in THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER is nothing new. The U.S. press was speculating on this theme as far back as August, soon after Iraq invaded Kuwait. Then it was alleged that the military attache of the Soviet Embassy in Washington had visited the Pentagon and passed on secret information concerning Iraqi arms supplied by the USSR.

The reports were categorically denied. But then the USSR announced that the Soviet military attache always has maintained, does maintain, and will continue to maintain contact with the Pentagon. This is the nature of the work, but there is no question of imparting secret information of any kind.

Now let us move on to a second aspect.

Obviously, it is reasonable to believe that our Defense Ministry or even the Main Intelligence Directorate will comment on the article in THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER. Meanwhile, I would like to express my own opinion: In all probability the leak from Pentagon and intelligence circles is of an exclusively political character. It would be hard not to notice that doubts have been expressed in Washington recently about the extent and reliability of the Soviet Unions' support for actions undertaken by the United States in the Persian Gulf. The statement by new Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh on the eve of his departure for Washington on an official visit, implying that there is a severe danger of the current conflict developing into a bid to destroy Iraq, clearly increased concern.

But the UN Security Council resolution sanctioning the use of force to ensure the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait in no way envisaged such an outcome to the conflict. Meanwhile, I get the impression that in Washington "to finish the job" means not merely liberating Kuwait but destroying Iraq.

In my opinion, the leak to THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER was intended to show Iraq and the whole world that the United States and the Soviet Union are solid, 100-percent allies, and that any military action undertaken by the United States in the Persian Gulf will be automatically supported by Moscow—and, moreover, by both politicians and military.

But at the final count it is not only the USSR which is reluctant to go as far as Washington seems prepared to. Speaking Sunday on ABC television, Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's national security adviser, made it clear that Cairo was prepared to support a cease-fire and to obtain accords between Iraq and neighboring countries if Baghdad embarks on an unequivocal troop withdrawal from Kuwait. Above all, it follows from al-Baz's statement that agreement may even be sought with Saddam Husayn himself. That is, Egypt's declaration states that the war being fought in the Persian Gulf must in no way aim to destroy Iraq or overthrow Husayn by one or other means, as would seem to be the intention of Washington and several of its closest partners in the war, London in particular.

Search for Lost CBS Crew Planned

PM3001153391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Jan 91 Union Edition p 4

[Article by M. Yusin: "USSR Involved in Search for Lost CBS Journalists"]

[Excerpts] As we have already reported, last week a CBS film crew disappeared in direct proximity to the front line in Saudi Arabia. The film crew was made up of four people—correspondent Robert Simon and a cameraman, sound man, and producer. [passage omitted]

We called CBS' Moscow office in the hope of getting some new information on the lost journalists. We were told that the situation is still unclear—the fate of their colleagues remains unknown.

According to a CBS correspondent, Vitaliy Ignatenko, aide to the USSR President, gave an interview to the TV company and stated that Mikhail Gorbachev has instructed the Foreign Ministry and other competent organizations to become actively involved in the search for the lost U.S. journalists. Ignatenko himself, whom we also called, added that Gorbachev made this decision after receiving a letter from the president of CBS.

P.S. We plan to cover the story of the U.S. journalists' disappearance in greater detail in our next issue.

Commentary Examines Bush Address on Relations

LD3101024191 Moscow World Service in English 2300 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] In his State of the Union Address to Congress on Tuesday, President George Bush said, and we quote, our relationship with the Soviet Union is not [as heard] important not only to us but to the world. A commentary from our observer Vladislav Kozyakov.

Judging by the President's address he intends to keep expanding Soviet-American partnership that has shaped in the past few years. His State of the Union Address contains the following words, quote, if it is possible I want to continue to build a lasting basis for U.S.-Soviet cooperation for a more peaceful future for all mankind, unquote.

This stand of President George Bush is fully shared in Moscow. The Soviet policy of reforms and openness to the rest of the world remains unchanged. As President Mikhail Gorbachev said a week ago in a television statement, quote, we shall keep loyal to our current foreign policy course, unquote. American leaders could once again see for themselves the constancy of the Soviet policies and the Soviet Union's adherence to cooperation with America and the rest of the world, not only from the recent Washington talks involving the Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh. It is also notable that Soviet-American relations even now have an ability to overcome unforeseen complex developments. When tragic events occurred in Lithuania and Latvia some leaders in Washington demanded a halt to the economic aid to the Soviet Union, and even produced a package of sanctions. In the meantime, events required still greater understanding, which is beginning to show. The incidents in the Baltic area are of concern not only in the United States but also in the Soviet Union among its people, in its legislature, and its president.

The wishes expressed by the U.S. President about solving the arising problems through a dialogue with the republics and a move away from violence coincide with the line followed by the Soviet president. In the course of

the Washington talks, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh informed the American leadership about the steps taken along these lines, including the pull-out of some Army units deployed in the Baltic area.

The Gulf events have become a serious test for the Soviet-American relations. From the very first day of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Moscow and Washington took up a common stand. The aggression must be stopped and Kuwait must be liberated. It is thanks to interaction between the Soviet Union and the United States that the UN Security Council passed resolutions that provide for the use of all means to drive Iraq from Kuwait.

More recently, during the Soviet foreign minister's talks in Washington, a common desire was reaffirmed that the two countries together with all other states in the anti-Iraqi coalition should reach the goals set by the United Nations. The cooperation of the USSR and the United States in this situation is a vivid illustration of the fact that, quote, the end of the cold war has been a victory for all humanity, unquote, as the U.S. President put it. The agenda of USSR-United States relations covers many other issues, which apparently include the main one still—completing the preparation of a treaty to reduce strategic offensive arms. Both sides believe the treaty can be ready as early as in February.

I think that the recent report about the postponement of the Soviet-American summit in Moscow, the main thing is not that it has been postponed but that it will be held later this year. The USSR-United States dialogue remains a highly important factor of international relations.

Northeast Asia

U.S.-ROK 'Team Spirit' Exercises Criticized

LD3001121191 Moscow TASS in English 1143 GMT 30 Jan 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Kanishchev]

[Text] Moscow January 30 TASS—"The Soviet Union believes that U.S.-South Korean 'Team Spirit-91' military exercises create additional obstacles on the road to unblocking the old and involved Korean problem," a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

Commenting on the decision by the United States and South Korea to hold a joint military exercise with the participation of over 100,000 servicemen, Yuriy Gremitskikh told TASS that, as in previous years, Pyongyang negatively reacted to the decision. The North Korean Foreign Ministry made a corresponding statement on January 26.

Previously, North Korea often called on South Korea to stop such exercises or suspend them for two to three years, while the South and North Korean prime ministers hold talks.

The Soviet Union attentively observes the situation on the Korean peninsula, where positive trends here manifested themselves in relations between the two Korean states, Gremitskikh said.

"It is very important for the inter-Korean dialogue to continue and retain the shoots of trust that began to penetrate with great difficulty through the year-long mutual hatred and suspicions between Pyongyang and Seoul," Gremitskikh said.

"We believe that military exercises, like Team Spirit, south of the Korean peninsula, even if they have defensive goals, as participants claim, do not promote detente or strengthen security in the region," Gremitskikh said.

Japanese Media Views Forthcoming Gorbachev Visit

PM3001144591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jan 91 Second Edition p 6

[Report by correspondent I. Latyshev: "Contradictions Are Surmountable"]

[Text] Tokyo—The Japanese press is widely discussing the results of Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakoyama's stay in Moscow.

The overall tone of the commentaries is positive: The reports from Moscow and the editorial articles note the timeliness and usefulness of the talks which the Japanese minister had with the leaders of Soviet foreign policy, which is assessed as an important stage in preparing for USSR President M.S. Gorbachev's forthcoming visit to Japan. Nearly all the newspapers note the great importance which the Soviet leadership attaches to setting up good-neighborly relations with Japan. Commentators see evidence of that in the fact that the visit will take place, despite the complications in the development of the international situation caused by the war in the Persian Gulf region. The Soviet side's great interest in developing relations with Japan is also seen by journalists here in the USSR president's firm confirmation of his intention to go to Japan for talks with its leaders despite the complexity of the present situation in the Soviet Union.

The local press also notes with satisfaction that Nakayama was the first Western [as published] foreign minister to have the opportunity to discuss in talks with the Soviet leadership events of recent days like the war in the Persian Gulf region and the conflicts which have taken place in the Baltic. The press emphasizes here the importance of the Soviet president's statement during his talk with Nakayama to the effect that his course toward perestroyka remains unchanged and that the conflict situation in the Baltic will be overcome "by political means."

As always when it is a case of relations with our countries, the press has displayed heightened interest in how the Soviet leadership treated the Japanese claims to four islands of the Kurile archipelago. For instance, an item

in the newspaper SANKEI SHIMBUN, which is closely linked with the country's military circles, expresses dissatisfaction at the fact that this time, too, the Soviet side has displayed no desire to yield to Japanese territorial demands. The item's author, Shuji Sotoyama, therefore recommends that during M.S. Gorbachev's forthcoming visit to Japan the Japanese Government display firmness. The failure of the Japanese minister's attempts to impose the territorial demands on the Soviet side is recognized in one way or another by central newspapers like YOMIURI, ASAHI, and MAINICHI. In his commentary ASAHI correspondent Katsuyuki Yakusuji complains of the blunders of Japanese diplomats who believed that the Soviet Union's present domestic difficulties would compel the Soviet leadership to display greater tractability than before with regard to Japanese territorial demands. In this connection he cites the opinion of an anonymous leader of the Japanese Foreign Ministry according to whom Tokyo has no grounds for counting on the Soviet stance on this issue changing substantially during the USSR president's forthcoming visit.

At the same time, virtually all reports from Moscow focus attention on the thought voiced by the USSR president during his talk with Nakayama to the effect that the differences between the USSR and Japan in connection with Japanese territorial demands should be examined and resolved in the process of the overall improvement of Soviet-Japanese relations.

Political circles here believe that Nakayama's talks in Moscow helped to strengthen the two countries' mutual understanding and created a favorable atmosphere for USSR President M.S. Gorbachev's forthcoming visit to Japan in April. Answering your correspondent's questions, legislative deputy Shintaro Abe, a former Japanese foreign minister and an influential leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic party, said: "I hope that President Gorbachev's visit to Japan will bear useful fruit and promote the development of Japanese-Soviet relations. I hope that the USSR president, despite all the complexities of the situation inside the country, will display persistence and firmness in implementing the ideas of perestroyka."

Ignatenko Denies Agreement on Kuril Island Trade

PM3101094391 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jan 91 p 2

[Report by S. Stupar under the rubric "Prognosis": "Farewell Dollar, Hello Yen?"]

[Text] "I believe that the gamble on the United States has failed," Artem Tarasov, a well-known Soviet politician and businessman who has just returned from the United States, declared at a news conference of the "Democratic Russia" movement. In his opinion, the military actions in the Baltic region, the extortionate exchange of money, the order on joint patrols, and other actions by the Union leadership in violation of human rights and the republics' sovereignty will lead democratic countries to refuse to cooperate with us.

In the very near future there will be a radical reorientation of our country from the West to the East. Artem Tarasov believes that a secret point on the transfer to Japan of four Kuril islands—the main stumbling block in the development of cooperation with the Land of the Rising Sun—was evidently stipulated during last year's talks. In exchange for this Japan is ready, so Artem Tarasov believes, to invest many billions in the development and modernization of the Soviet economy. The traditions of Japanese society—discipline, collectivism, little experience of democracy—would be very suitable for the USSR if the Communist Party's rigid dictatorship is established. Japan also has an interest in this, for under these conditions it would receive guarantees for its investments. It is also being pushed toward cooperation with the USSR by the development of the situation in the Persian Gulf, the falling dollar exchange rate, the increasing competition with traditional Japanese goods on the part of the "young dragons"—the countries of Southeast Asia—and also the demographic situation in Japan itself and the overpopulation which threatens it by the year 2000. The huge Soviet market and boundless expanses could help Japan to resolve these problems. Japanese investments, Artem Tarasov believes, could sharply raise living standards in the USSR. This is good for the man in the street but bad for democracy, which will be deferred for long years in the USSR.

Incidentally

A report by the POSTFACTUM agency that the USSR has allegedly promised to cede four islands to Japan for $200 billion was categorically refuted at a meeting yesterday between journalists and V.N. Ignatenko, leader of the USSR President's Press Service. It was unequivocally stated that "there was nothing of the sort during the Japanese foreign minister's visit to the USSR."

Mongolian President Discusses Gorbachev Talks

LD3001161891 Moscow TASS in English 1557 GMT 30 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Chernov]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar January 30 TASS—Mongolian President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev agreed that it was advisable for the two countries' prime ministers to meet soon. The Mongolian president said this in an interview published by the government newspaper ARDYN ERKH today. Ochirbat and Gorbachev had a talk in Moscow when the Mongolian president was on his way home from the United States.

"During our meeting we exchanged views on bilateral relations and economic cooperation and its further

intensification," Ochirbat told the newspaper. "In addition, we discussed matters concerning geological prospecting, construction, joint ventures, forms and methods to develop trade, barter and cross-border trade, in particular," he said.

When discussing the course of implementation of the accords reached as a result of last year's meeting in Moscow in May, the two presidents concluded that "the work was conducted unsatisfactorily due to the lack of initiative on the part of persons responsible for it".

This is why the two countries' prime ministers must meet to stimulate the sides' actions in this respect, the Mongolian president said.

Near East & South Asia

Air Force Chief Assesses Air War in Gulf

PM3001153591 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Jan 91 Second Edition p 3

[Interview with Aviation Colonel General Ye. Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Soviet Air Force, by Captain S. Sidorov; place and date not given: "In the Skies Over Iraq"]

[Text] [Sidorov] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, over the past days of the war in the Persian Gulf region the main events have developed chiefly in the skies. How would you describe the actions of the Air Forces of the United States and its allies? Have they used new methods and means of struggle?

[Shaposhnikov] Before answering your question to the point, I would like to express profound regret that it was not possible to avoid war. The greatest sufferings will fall to the lot of the peoples. The number of casualties among the civilian population is already increasing rapidly, including as a result of air operations. This is regrettable and worthy of censure.

We are following the development of the situation attentively, evaluating it from various viewpoints. As military people, we are interested in everything associated with the use of the latest aviation hardware under real combat conditions and on such an unprecedented scale. For a very great deal has changed since the time of the Vietnam war. One of the sides in the conflict has acquired such weapons as modern air- and sea-launched cruise missiles, F-15 and F-117A Stealth fighters, the multirole Tornado aircraft, the Patriot SAM missile system, etc.

Information is being accumulated and processed, and we will, in time, be able, I believe, to draw substantiated conclusions on the new methods and means of struggle.

The actions of allied aircraft during the first days represented a major offensive air operation—in terms of tasks, aims, and operating tactics. Obviously, it pursued the aim of knocking out the opposing side's aircraft, control centers, "surface-to-surface" missile launchers, and air defense facilities and, to a certain extent, undermining Iraq's economic potential.

Everything indicates that in the initial stage the operation was carefully planned, organized, and executed. Good cooperation was noted among the mobilized forces and facilities, particularly with electronic warfare gear. The first reports might have given the impression that the aims of the operation had mainly been achieved. But a somewhat different picture is now taking shape. Despite the fact that allied aircraft were dropping up to 15,000 tonnes of ammunition on targets in Iraq every day, launches of Iraqi "surface-to-surface" missiles are not ceasing and Iraqi air defense facilities are offering serious resistance. In short, the result in actual fact has proved not quite the one on which the allies were reckoning.

[Sidorov] What, in your view, was the reason for this?

[Shaposhnikov] Although the Iraqi side might have miscalculated with regard to the timing of the start of the war, it still had time to carry out a number of defensive measures. The most modern aircraft, for example, were dispersed and concealed. In addition, the actual combat situation far from always takes shape the way military chiefs or politicians want.

[Sidorov] At present the air operations of the anti-Iraq coalition no longer seem as vigorous as during the first days. With what is this linked?

[Shaposhnikov] According to our assessments, the intensity of operations by coalition aircraft really has diminished somewhat. Whereas initially they were making two or three combat sorties a day, by the day of our conversation this number is down to one or 1.5. Both figures are a low indicator. The allies would probably like to improve "productivity." But they evidently cannot do so because of difficulties in material and technical supplies, which have begun to make themselves felt. It is, all the same, not easy to service such an air armada and supply it with fuel and ammunition.

There are also real problems for aircraft connected with the weather conditions. Some regions of combat operations have found themselves in a zone of low cloud cover, which hampers aimed missile launches and bombing. The complex meteorological conditions have been compounded by such a factor as smoke screens from burning oil installations in Kuwait. It is also possible to speak now of a certain drop in aggressive spirit—captured airmen have turned up.

[Sidorov] Could you describe in a few words the actions of the Iraqi Air Force?

[Shaposhnikov] A certain part of it was destroyed during the first raids. The part that survived intact is not yet being used extensively—to all appearances, it is being kept in reserve for strikes which are being planned against the ground forces of the opposing coalition and

to cover the combat formations of its own troops in the event of a start to their large-scale operations. The Iraqi command probably realizes that air strikes against Saudi Arabia would not be effective just now.

[Sidorov] What is your immediate prognosis? How will allied aircraft operate in the future?

[Shaposhnikov] The number one task for the anti-Iraq coalition now is to prevent Husayn from drawing Israel into the war. Consequently, it may be assumed that aircraft will concentrate chief attention on seeking and destroying "surface-to-surface" missile launchers and making strikes against airfields. The center of gravity of the strikes will gradually shift from strategic targets deep inside Iraqi territory to the Iraqi troops' defensive fortifications along the Saudi-Kuwaiti border. This could happen in the near future.

Early Air War Viewed

91UM0313A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Jan 91 First Edition p 3

[Article by Colonel M. Ponomarev: "The Picture Begins To Clear"]

[Text] It has long been observed that nowhere do people lie as much as in hunting and at war. Nor have the events in the Persian Gulf been any exception in this respect. Moreover, deception, disinformation, and falsification had been made the basis of the "psychological warfare" which both sides had unleashed against one another even before the start of combat operations and which they are still actively continuing. "Psychological operations," THE NEW YORK TIMES emphasizes, "have been sanctioned by three secret directives, which were signed by President Bush."

This enabled the French TF-1 television company to conclude: "There is under way a real 'war of news releases,' which play down one's own losses and exaggerate the losses of the enemy." There is nothing unusual in this under the conditions of wartime. But such a "war," of course, complicates a sober assessment of what is going on and prevents a sufficiently confident forecast of the development of events in the future. Nor for this reason should my observations be taken as the truth in the last instance. But the picture is beginning to clear, and certain trends are emerging increasingly distinctly.

From the very outset the United States and its allies put the emphasis on inflicting a devastating assault against Iraq from the air. Operations developed in accordance with the prescription offered 70-80 years ago by the Italian General G. Douhet. He believed that, having gained domination in the air, it was possible achieving total victory with attacks on the enemy's government and economic centers. True, this doctrine was not borne out during World War II and also in the course of military operations in Korea and Vietnam. But even today it appears very attractive to many prominent military figures of the West. It is believed that the modern level of development of technology makes it possible with air strikes if not to conclusively crush the enemy, then, at least, to inflict on him a decisive defeat.

It was in accordance with this script that military operations in the Persian Gulf originally developed. Allied aircraft have already carried out more than 10,000 combat sorties. Most important centers and military targets of Iraq have been subjected to missile and bombing attacks. Despite the numerous high-flown reports of the multinational force command, however, decisive success in the course of the aerial Blitzkrieg has not been achieved. The first reports on this score have had to be disavowed. Nonetheless, combat operations are unfolding with a preponderance in favor of the anti-Iraq coalition. Various reasons are being cited here. We may distinguish among them, in my view, the following.

First, the Pentagon and the command of the multinational force succeeded to a certain extent in achieving operational-tactical surprise. It does not seem that Iraq was expecting military operations to be initiated as early as the night of 17 January.

Second, the American Armed Forces are saturated with the latest types of weapons and combat equipment. This applies primarily to electronic warfare, which has been employed on such an extensive scale for the first time in the history of warfare and which has seriously hampered the operations of Iraq's air defense, aircraft, and command and communications system. The extensive use—also for the first time in history—of precision, "smart" weapons created on the basis of the latest achievements of science and technology—laser, electronic, and so forth, pertains here. The use of such weapons has made it possible to achieve exceptional accuracy of target destruction.

Third, mention has to be made of certain blunders of the Iraqi command. It was initially unable, evidently, to organize due countermeasures to the attackers. The experience of the eight-year war against Iran, in the course of which Baghdad had clear military-technical superiority, did it a poor turn and engendered smugness and complacency.

As far as it is possible to judge, howeve, Iraq's regular military forces ultimately proved capable of countering the latest weapons and methods of armed struggle. In addition, Iraq has declared with a certain amount of justification that it has won the "first round" and that "Bush's game, based on the achievement of a swift victory with the aid of the latest technology, has failed."

What is at the basis of such statements? Contrary to the first communiques of American military figures and the news media, Iraq's air defense system has not been smashed. It is now being said that Iraq deliberately did not use its full might in the course of the first attacks in order not to reveal it to the enemy ahead of time. Baghdad has also succeeded in preserving the bulk of its combat aircraft, dispersed and concealed in shelters

ahead of time. The initial reports concerning the destruction of Iraqi missiles capable of striking at a range of the order of 600 km have not been confirmed—the American air assaults were carried out to a considerable extent against skillfully prepared mockups and other decoys. The reports on the alleged total elimination of nuclear centers and chemical and biological weapons centers were also exaggerated, to put it mildly.

Nonetheless, Baghdad's statement about winning the "first round" also pertains to the sphere of clear exaggeration. Yes, Washington is already talking increasingly now about the fact that the war is assuming a protracted nature and will last not days but a minimum of several weeks and perhaps months and that it will be necessary to commit large-scale ground forces to the fighting. But this does not, for all that, change the overall picture. Allied superiority in the air and at sea—even given approximate equivalence on land—speaks for itself. It is no accident that Iraq has been unable to wrest the strategic initiative from the allies, carry out active operations against their air force, and transfer combat operations to the ground fronts.

Baghdad's assertiveness is being manifested only in the launching of Scud missile strikes against Saudi Arabia and also Israel. These attacks are having no purely military effect, however. To some extent because the missiles have been modified for an increase in range, but made considerably heavier here and may now carry a relatively small charge of conventional explosive. most importantly, the Americans have had a very considerable means of combating them. We are talking about the Patriot missiles, which can destroy aerial targets, including enemy missiles, at a range of up to 100 km or altitudes of 30 down to 1.5 km. Estimated kill probability is, it is reported, 0.9. These estimates have been borne out by practice also to some extent.

Reports are coming out of the Persian Gulf zone increasingly to the effect that, together with the continuing intensive air raids against targets in Iraq and Kuwait, the ground forces are beginning to display greater activity. Washington has approved a plan for a flanking attack by these forces, bypassing the grouping of Iraqi forces concentrated in Kuwait and southern Iraq. The special combat group "Ripper" composed of subunits of Marines, whose job it will be to be the first to attack the so-called "Saddam line"—a system of fortifications along the Saudi-Kuwait border—is being formed also. But this will be the next stage of the military operations.

As far as we can tell, such a development of events can hardly be avoided. S. Husayn is flat-out refusing to comply with the demand of the world community for a withdrawal of forces from Kuwait. The United States is beginning to talk ever more loudly about the fact that the mission of its Armed Forces should not be confined to the liberation of Kuwait. The war should be prosecuted, allegedly, until Iraq has been completely smashed and its military potential wiped out.

Washington and the other capitals also understand that a high price will have to be paid for the achievement of this goal. A more sober mood has come to replace the first days' euphoria. There is no longer any talk of a swift and bloodless victory.

Chemical Warfare Expert Studies Iraqi Capability

LD3001171191 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Network in Russian 1530 GMT 30 Jan 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] In connection with reports in the media about the possible start of a chemical war in the Persian Gulf, requests are coming into Central Television from viewers for an explanation about the nature of a chemical war for the belligerents and for the population of our country. Our correspondent today met with Colonel General Petrov, chief of Chemical Troops of the USSR Ministry of Defense, who answered his questions.

[Begin recording] [Sedov] This is my question, Stanislav Venyaminovich: Does Iraq have a military-chemical potential, and what kind of poisonous materials does its army possess?

[Petrov] It is not possible, of course, to give a simple answer to this question since the Soviet Union, and the Ministry of Defense in particular, has not exchanged information on such questions with Iraq and has not conducted cooperation in this field.

Here, for example, is a reference manual of the Institute of Problems of Defense and Analysis—the well known U.S. magazine CHEMICAL AND ENGINEERING NEWS.

[Sedov] What does it say?

[Petrov] It cites data that Iraq is capable at the present moment of producing annually 1,000 tonnes of poisonous materials and from 250,000-500,000 different artillery shells. Saddam Husayn, the president of Iraq, has stated more than once that Iraq possess chemical weapons and, moreover....

[Sedov, interrupting] And bacteriological weapons, too.

[Petrov] And bacteriological weapons, too, and moreover, he has also said that Iraq possesses the latest chemical weapons, in particular binary weapons.

[Sedov] Tell me, please, what kind of effect would the destruction of targets for the production and storage of chemical weapons on Iraqi territory or their use during combat operations have on the population of our southern republics?

[Petrov] The most complex situation could arise in the event of the destruction of stores with poisonous materials. In such an event a cloud of poisonous material could spread to a depth of several dozen kilometers, and

naturally it constitutes the main danger to the population of Iraq itself. At the same time, war is war, as they say. Unforeseen things happen in wartime. For example, let us take a situation where, say, a plane carrying chemical ammunition from one place to another, as a result of being shelled, loses direction and heads in the direction of the Soviet Union. In this instance, of course, certain damage could be inflicted on the Soviet Union.

[Sedov] Well, as far as your specialists are concerned, are any preventive measures being taken in this connection at the moment?

[Petrov] In our southern regions there are chemical troops which are made up of special units and subunits of radiation and chemical warfare reconnaissance and airborne radiation and chemical warfare reconnaissance. These units are engaged in routine combat training, but they are geared toward being on the alert for possible unusual situations which could arise during the course of this war. [end recording]

Chemical Weapons Risks Cited

PM3001184091 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Jan 91 First Edition p 3

[Interview with Professor Major General I.B. Yevstafyev, UN expert on investigating the circumstances of the use of chemical weapons, by correspondent A. Golts under the rubric: "Expert Opinion"; place and date not given: "Shadow of Chemical Weapons Over the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] The foreign mass media are reporting continuing air raids by the multinational forces on chemical weapons bases and dumps in Iraq. At the same time, S. Husayn has spoken directly of a possible strike using weapons of mass destruction. Does the possibility exist of the use of chemical weapons in this war? KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent A. Golts put this question to Professor Major General I.B. Yevstafyev, UN expert on investigating the circumstances of the use of chemical weapons.

[Yevstafyev] It is rather hard to form an opinion on the possibilities of the use of a particular type of weapon on the basis of newspaper reports. But it can be said confidently that Iraq is among the countries capable—from the viewpoint of their level of scientific and technical development—of producing chemical weapons. By all appearances, a number of Western firms also helped it in this.

As for attacks on facilities for the manufacture and storage of chemical weapons, obviously these have not yet resulted in success for the anti-Iraq coalition. It may be assumed that the stocks of chemical agents are in specially hardened shelters at the facilities themselves, or else were transported elsewhere beforehand. It cannot be ruled out that Iraq simply does not have such weapons.

[Golts] All the same, Igor Borisovich, if you assume that Iraq does possess modern chemical agents, how effective, in your view, would their use in hostilities prove to be?

[Yevstafyev] We have examined the possibilities, working on the basis of the forces and resources that Iraq, according to information in the foreign press, possesses. I must say at once that the use of chemical weapons can produce a military effect only if they are used on a massive scale. Iraq does not have the resources necessary for that. So it is possible, by means of a strike against troops by isolated aircraft or small aviation elements, to hit an enemy battalion. Knowing the degree of protection of the U.S. troops and taking into account the American regulations, you can assume that losses in such a case would be no more than 10-15 percent of the servicemen. The effectiveness of cannon artillery, salvo fire systems, or even missiles would not be much greater. In the majority of cases it could be a question of a strike against company or platoon strongpoints.

[Golts] But is there a threat to civilians?

[Yevstafyev] Of course the civilian population is another matter, especially in cities. If a chemical strike is carried out against the civilian population the number of casualties will amount to hundreds or even thousands. In fact, this tragic account has already opened. Because even the chemical defense measures that have been implemented widely in Israel have damaged people's health, both psychologically and physically.

The use of chemical agents, especially against the civilian population, is without doubt a dreadful crime. But the blame, it seems to me, would not rest with Iraq alone.

[Golts] You mean that responsibility could be laid at the door of the United States and its allies?

[Yevstafyev] Precisely. I wish to stress once again that this is just my opinion, but it is the opinion of an expert. You see, if you analyze the different possibilities for the development of events, the conclusion that suggests itself is that the maximum contamination of the locality and human casualties would result from the destruction of chemical weapon manufacture and storage facilities. Yet the air raids on those facilities are continuing.

Whereas the choice of command and control centers, air defense systems, airfields, and missile bases as priority targets is understandable from a military viewpoint, the expediency of strikes against military chemical facilities is open to serious doubt. According to experts' assessments, the destruction by conventional munitions of chemical bomb stores containing 200-500 tonnes of sarin and tabun would result in casualties among the population at a distance of several tens of kilometers. In my view, the destruction of such facilities could be equated with chemical warfare. Does it really make any difference in principle whether civilian deaths are caused by stocks of chemical agents from a destroyed dump or by the use of chemical weapons by the attacking side? In

practice a strike against military chemical facilities amounts to provocation of chemical warfare. This is a violation, if not in letter then in spirit, of the Geneva Protocol banning the use of chemical weapons in warfare. Could someone actually have an interest in Iraq's using these weapons?

[Golts] Igor Borisovich, does any danger exist to our country?

[Yevstafyev] There is no direct threat. Whatever scenario for the development of events you look at, the USSR's territory will not be affected. But what is happening in the Persian Gulf now prompts very serious reflections. The point is that accords have been reached between the USSR and the United States under which they exchanged data not only on their stocks of chemical weapons, but also on the places of manufacture and storage. Precise coordinates were supplied. Well, a secret that two people know is no longer a secret, as the saying goes. Yet the experience of the conflict in the Gulf shows that in the event of war these facilities will be first-strike targets. As a military man, I am obliged to think about this....

[Golts] But let us come back to the situation in the Gulf. There was a report in the newspapers that a substance has been invented in Sweden that neutralizes the effects of chemical agents and that it could be sent to the conflict region.

[Yevstafyev] Work on various types of antidotes to nerve gases, created on the basis of organophosphorous compounds, has been in progress for a long time in many countries. Quite good results have been achieved. It cannot be ruled out that Swedish scientists have progressed further than anyone else in this direction. But it should be borne in mind that the purpose of the antidote is to save individuals' lives. But it cannot totally neutralize the effects of the chemical agent.

Persian Gulf War Reports, Assessments Continue

Saddam Criticized for Repression

91UF0394A Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jan 91 p 4

[Article by A. Mursaliyev: "Saddam and Gomorrah" subtitled "Whence the Wind That Gave Birth to 'Desert Storm'"]

[Text] The tall, spare young man turned off abruptly to the right and headed with purposeful stride toward a small private residence, above the doors of which the fall Baku wind lazily tugged at the red, white, and black canvas with three green stars in the middle. In his pocket was an application addressed to Saddam Husayn. The Azerbaijani boy was communicating his readiness to set out for Iraq as a volunteer in order together with the valorous Iraqi Army to repulse the aggression of the multinational force. This boy was not the sole Azerbaijani who sympathizes with Saddam. Supporters of the Iraqi president have been found in almost every corner of our boundless country. But an Azerbaijani supporting Saddam is, for all that, nonsense. Why?

The Azerbaijanis are, perhaps, the sole people in the Union who have suffered directly from the present Iraqi regime. Living in northeast Iraq are 200,000 to half a million Azerbaijanis, it is variously estimated, who call themselves Turkomans there. The Baghdad regime has brought brutal punitive measures crashing down on them. Saddam destroyed the mausoleum of the very great Azerbaijani poet of the 16th century and classic of our literature, Muhammed Fizuli. During the war with Iran, Iraqi aircraft bombed almost all the major cities of southern Azerbaijan. Northerners who visited the south last year saw for themselves that there is not a single Azerbaijani locality in Iran which does not have a cemetery of martyrs, that is, young boys who fell in the war with Iraq.

But all that is known of Saddam and his deeds and behavior is barely capable of charming anyone. It is said: Tell me your friend, and I will tell you who you are. For the last two decades Saddam's closest friend and confidant was the Soviet Union. It should without false modesty be acknowledged that, yes, we exerted a very considerable influence on the formation of the present character of Iraqi society. Judge for yourselves. When, in 1968, the Arab Socialist Revival or Ba'th Party came to power (Saddam was still playing a secondary part at that time, incidentally), the first thing it did was release from prison all political prisoners, "communists and other democrats," as we wrote in those years. There initially emerged a motley of parties operating legally. It was a stone's throw to pluralism, it seemed. But it was here that we became friends. "Relations of cooperation were established" between the CPSU and the Ba'th Party in 1971 even. In April of the following year our countries concluded a friendship and cooperation treaty.

Saddam proved an exceptionally diligent pupil. Having announced the unacceptability for Iraq of the capitalist development path, the Eighth Ba'th Party Congress in 1974 advanced the task of a deepening of progressive transformations "for the purpose of the creation of the necessary material and spiritual base for the transition to socialism." As regards the material base, I do not know, but the spiritual base was created within the five-year period: In 1982 the 9th congress of this party declared that only the Ba'th Party "has the historical and actual right to lead the revolutionary process in the country."

We became friends with Iraq honestly. So firmly that for the sake of one unbloodied friend we gave up two of our bloodied friends. In the mid-1970's we disavowed the aging Kurdish leader Mustafa Barzani, although we had begun to make friends with him back in the 1940's, as of World War II times. At that time units of our Army entered Iranian Azerbaijan and Kurdistan, where an upsurge of the national democratic movement immediately began. True, in 1946, having obtained Tehran's assurances concerning supplies of oil, we immediately

withdrew our forces from Iranian territory. The young democrats of Azerbaijan and Kurdistan fell under the blows of the shah's Army. Only negligible numbers of democrats managed to cross the Soviet-Iranian border. M. Barzani and his supporters also found refuge in our country at that time. Some years later we helped him return to Kurdistan, but Iraqi Kurdistan this time. For many years we supported the "leader of the Kurdish national liberation movement, democrat and friend of the Soviet Union" both morally and materially.

The activity of the Kurdish Peshmerga (those who are prepared to die) was inversely proportional to our love for Baghdad. If our newspapers were writing "Baghdad regime," you could be sure that shots would be reverberating in the mountains, if, however, we said that a progressive leadership had come to power, a lull had descended in the north. A law was enacted in 1974 on autonomy for the Iraqi Kurds which Barzani saw as a fraud and fiction. The old Kurd knew how to make out what was what. But he had not learned one thing—we had by that time become firm friends with Baghdad. For this reason supplies to the Kurds ceased, and Barzani now came to be called in our country nothing other than the "leader of a right-nationalist wing who saw the law as a threat to his class interests."

But in 1977, when Saddam was preparing to declare the Ba'th Party the sole guiding and directing party, punitive measures were surprisingly brought crashing down on the Iraqi communists. Some 31 communists were executed in May of the following year on a charge of "political activity in the Armed Forces," and arrests and executions began. The communists went underground. The echo of the intensification of the class war in Iraq reached our country even. There were clashes in many cities of our country between student Ba'thists and communists. "Why do you not break off relations with Saddam," our Arab communist fellow students asked in bewilderment. But how could we, the teacher, abuse our pupil for excessive diligence? Saddam was acting strictly in accordance with the theory and practice brought to perfection with us in the first 20 years. He brilliantly merged our 1918 and 1937. A tricky situation, and as of May 1978 the CPSU resolved to "suspend its relations with the Ba'th Party." But what does one not do for the sake of a friend? The friendship treaty was not abrogated, and relations between the states remained as before. Only making friends now were no longer General Secretary Brezhnev and General Secretary Saddam but Supreme Soviet Presidium Chairman Brezhnev and President Saddam. The Kremlin was greatly to this young man's liking. He was exceedingly like our oblast party committee secretaries of that time. He would organize campaigns, he would lead and inspire, he would encourage the drawing of revolutionary posters, chiefly bearing his portrait, and he created his own schedule of appointments, in accordance with the best Soviet traditions, what is more, and the most outstanding personnel came from the chief's own village—Tikrit and its surrounding areas. But why am I telling you this? You yourselves know and remember all this full well. In a word, there is no whiff of magnetism here, nor is there, to be blunt, a sea or gulf even of charm.

Political scientists give various explanations for the pro-Iraqi position of millions of Muslims: infantilism of political thinking, Islamic fanaticism. Arguing with the first is stupid and senseless. As far, however, as the second is concerned, it is very, very far from the truth. Let us begin with the fact that Saddam has never been distinguished by particular religiosity. He has dealt with the Islamic just as ruthlessly as with the communist opposition.

Everything fits into place if the arguments of Iraq's supporters are scrutinized a little more closely. The world was made by the West, they believe. The present borders were established following two world wars unleashed by Europe. For this reason these are borders that suit the West. When Bismarck annexed Saxony, the Ottoman sultan and the Egyptian khedive did not sent their squadrons to the shores of Prussia. And Saddam is an Arab Bismarck. Europe went through the process of formation of national states in the 19th century. This still awaits Asia.

Perhaps this is so. But, as distinct from Europe of the 19th century, both the scale here and the times are different. A redrawing of the world is possible today only as a result of a major world war, after which there would most likely be nothing to divide up....

East-West confrontation is, seemingly, if not becoming a thing of the past, easing considerably. It is coming to be replaced by South-North confrontation, however. The third world understands full well that the Western democracies are defending in the Arabian desert today not the sacred principles of world order and the imperishable rights of a legitimate dynasty of Kuwaiti sheykhs but their own vital interests and their right to have not one strong but several dependent suppliers of oil.

The secret of Saddam's popularity is simple: He has been able to personify the North-South conflict. It is under this sign that mankind is, evidently, destined to enter and live in the 21st century. There are enough "bullies" and "enfants terribles" in the third world.

Doubts Over U.S. Role Examined

PM3101100891 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 91 Union Edition p 5

[Report by Stanislav Kondrashov "Political Observer's Notes": "You Cannot Stand Tall Without Dignity"]

[Text] Dignity is an intangible thing. But without it no man, no nation, and no state can stand tall. Without dignity one has no standard of one's own to measure what is happening. One adopts someone else's. It can be expressed by an old saying in somewhat modified form: "Some day Baker will come, Baker will settle this dispute for us." It would be more accurate to substitute Bush, but

Baker scans better. [Reference to saying "Some day the landlord will come, the landlord will settle our dispute," i.e. things will improve without much effort on our part]

I sometimes think about this when I look at our coverage of the conflict in the Persian Gulf region. It is often indistinguishable from the American coverage, especially as more often than not this is where the information, appraisals, and, needless to say, the television pictures come from. This material deprives the war of its main component—human suffering. But this does not concern America. They do not show the blood, death, and ruins down there in someone else's country, and in someone else's sky they only show reaction bulletins with pilots in nice flying coveralls.

Analysis in some of our newspapers matches this. Here is a quotation: "Our fate is also being decided in the Near East: The success of the allies (for allies read Americans) will also decide in large measure the fate of military reform and of democracy as a whole in the country (i.e. our country).... If the war in the Near East drags on or turns out none too successfully for the allies, then we can expect more and more punitive acts carried out by "workers"' detachments set up at plants of the military industrial complex and by the Army which is related to them. **It remains only to hope and pray for a swift and unconditional American victory (my emphasis—S.K.)—then, like it or not, society in Russia will have to start getting to grips with both the Army and the "defense" enterprises, as happened before, in the 1860's, after the Crimean War."**

Where is this quotation from? From NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, which is taking the first steps in the field of a new, tough type of journalism. The author is Pavel Felgengauer. I have not read much of his work, and I do not have a definite opinion of his views. I am embarrassed to put it mildly by these hymns to the American war machine, however, and also by the swipes which the author takes at everything Soviet—from the "workers"' detachments in quotation marks to the Army related to the military industrial complex.

There's more. The author boldly projects what is happening in the Persian Gulf region on to Central Europe, suggesting that to the Soviet Armed Forces there war would have looked about as catastrophic as Saddam Husayn's clash with George Bush is, in Felgengauer's opinion. Yet again we get enthusiasm alternating with sarcasm: "The indestructible Red Army, made up for the most part of unprofessional officers and semitrained conscripts, could hardly manage to put up sustained resistance to the professional NATO armies and modern highly accurate superweaponry. The clash of brute force and reason, a bullfight in essence, would end, like all bullfights, with the moment of truth."

In the author's view Soviet soldiers and Soviet weaponry are worthy only of contempt. We read: "...the experience of the Afghan war and the clashes in Tbilisi, Baku, and now Vilnius demonstrate fully that the peaceful civilian population is the only target which our glorious defenders can be more or less sure of hitting."

In officialese this used to be called unfounded criticism. Now it is evidently the fashion in the new journalism. It also betrays the lack of a sense of one's own dignity. Criticism may be of the most destructive sort, but without respect for one's own people there is no self-respect and only snobbery and arrogance, which are unforgivable in older people and pernicious in the young.

Yes, we are in the midst of a very deep crisis. Yes, it seems that nothing is sacred any more. But here is this land, this native land, this mother who becomes an orphan if her children turn away from her. But if pain and love persist, the problem may still be rectified. In the meantime we are assured that the fate of our native land is being decided from now on by an American war in the Near East, that if their blitzkrieg against Saddam Husayn is successful we shall have democracy, conversion, the sort of Army we need, and other delights. It is laughable. But not only laughable.

It seems to me that the idea of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA is correct and important, I liked its credo that was expounded in the first issue by the chief editor Vitaliy Tretyakov. I liked a great deal of the things in the issues that have already been published. Serious independent publications, sound independent opinions, and independent people unfettered by party bias will strengthen our democracy by preventing it from shooting off to extremes of left or right. I doubt whether anyone would deny that independence as a social concept is linked to a sense of responsibility and is engendered by it.

All these are axioms, well known everywhere. I am grateful to the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA author for giving me cause to recall them. But since we like comparing ourselves to the Americans, it should be said that on the pages of their newspapers, which are highly diverse and independent, they do not display and indulge in such a degree of alienation and such cold dismissal of their own country.

Now to the subject of the blitzkrieg, which has dragged on somewhat. The Americans have patently gone beyond the powers granted by the Security Council by making their aim not just the liberation of Kuwait but also the total destruction of Iraq. I am interested not in analysis but in reminiscences, however. I visited Iraq for the first time 33 years ago. At that time Kuwait did not exist as an independent state. The British colonial government had fallen, Prime Minister Nuri al-Sa'id had been executed, and at the newsstands they were selling snapshots: the horrific stump of a man, the corpse of Nuri al-Sa'id, which had been dragged round the streets at length. Cruelty, it seems, is characteristic of Iraq.

I remembered that occasion when Saddam Husayn was behaving brutally toward the Kuwaitis. Now the Americans are showing cruelty of another type, the technological, highly accurate cruelty of air bombardments, to the delight of our armchair analysts. The American generals are preserving their troops, for whom they must answer to the politicians, who in turn must answer to the people in a developed democracy. The more they preserve their own forces, the more they do not spare and kill others, those whom democracy does not care about. God grant that in the land battles which are forecast the sands are fed with blood sparingly.

I thought a great deal about this cruelty of a divided world while I was working as an IZVESTIYA correspondent in New York and Washington, at the time when America was waging war in Vietnam. A certain Yankee colonel once came out with an unexpected aphorism: "We had to destroy this city in order to save it." Needless to say, it was a Vietnamese city he had in mind.

The same fate may befall Kuwait. It would not be out of place for those who applaud the American victories to remember this aphorism. Incidentally, in America itself people on the streets are once again demanding that blood should not be shed for oil, and many of them are not confusing the liberation of Kuwait with U.S. diktat in the Near East.

In the event of an American victory attempts to dictate terms—by right of conquest—are entirely possible. The Israeli positions in the Arab-Israeli hostility will be strengthened. Of course, this does not predetermine our fate. But the correlation of forces will not necessarily come out in our favor, quite the reverse rather. The seeds of hatred, which thrive so well in these barren lands, will yield even more dangerous shoots unless a general Near East settlement based on the principles of peace, equal rights, and justice is ensured by joint efforts.

Low Morale Seen Among Iraqis

PM3001143991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Jan 91 Union Edition p 3

[Report by special correspondents D. Velikiy and B. Ivanov: "In the Glow of Missile Attacks"]

[Excerpts] Riyadh—For the last several days in Riyadh there has been no point in going to bed before midnight. It has already become a tradition that at any moment between 2200 and 2400 Iraq could start a missile attack, in which case you have to leap out of bed regardless and, pulling on your clothes as you go, hurry to the bomb shelter. At the same time, it does not necessarily mean that the Iraqi missiles will not appear in the sky over Saudi Arabia much later, say toward morning, when sleep is so sweet: It has repeatedly been the case that the piercing wail of the siren which warns of a missile attack has woken us twice in a night or even three times. Yet more often than not the Iraqis, obeying some sort of logic apparently known only to themselves, try to launch their "Scuds" at Saudi Arabia precisely after 2200 and precisely no later than midnight. [passage omitted].

Not one of the Iraqi missiles has been aimed at the allied coalition troops' positions—they have all been directed at regions of densely populated cities. Such tactics only further strengthen the opinion forming here that the Iraqi leadership, not being capable of putting up something substantial to oppose the multinational forces' well-organized military machine, despairingly resolved to take steps that are useless in a military respect but which are undoubtedly having a psychological effect and causing loud repercussions in the world.

The events occurring in the Gulf compel many of our journalist colleagues to ask themselves the question: Does the Iraqi leader know about the real state of affairs at the fronts, about the situation in Kuwait, or about the mood among his soldiers? Incidentally, in recent days an increasing amount of evidence has been emerging that the Iraqi Army's morale is quite low and continuing to fall. By today 140 Iraqis had been taken prisoner by allied troops. Their outward appearance, physical condition, and remarks during interrogation speak volumes. They are all to some degree or other suffering from emaciation, many have sores and parasites on their bodies, and practically all expressed their joy that they had become prisoners. "At last this nightmare is over for me," one of them said. [passage omitted].

In accordance with the military censor's demands, names, personal names, and other details relating to the events described have been omitted.

News Conference Held on Gulf Oil Slick

LD3001171291 Moscow TASS in English 1703 GMT 30 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Sergeiy Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow January 30 TASS—"The oil slick in the Gulf is the worst environmental disaster at sea in human history," Chairman of the Soviet Environmental Protection Committee Nikolay Vorontsov told a news conference in Moscow today.

The slick is now about 1.5 millimeters thick, Yuriy Saturov, deputy chairman of the Soviet Hydrometeorological Committee said.

"In the past four days a total of 1,200,000 tonnes of oil have been dumped into the Gulf," he said.

By January 31, the slick is expected to cover an area 90-100 kilometers long and 20-30 kilometers wide, he said.

Oil will pollute more than 3,000 square kilometers, destroying most of phyto and zoo plankton, birds and fish.

The best way to remove the slick is to collect oil from the sea surface, Soviet expert Valentin Ziberov said. The Gulf war impedes the clean-up, he said.

"The size of the slick is unprecedented," Ziberov said.

He cited a recent disaster in Odessa where 60 tonnes of oil spilled into the water, inflicting damage worth $2 million.

"The size of the oil slick in the Gulf shows that the damage from it will be billions of dollars," he said.

Academician Georgiy Zavarzin said it will take years to clean up the area using biological methods.

"Birds will be severely hit, as well as fish stocks," Vorontsov said.

In January, large numbers of birds from various parts of the world gather in the Gulf. Several rare birds from the Soviet red book, wintered in the Gulf. Their numbers will dwindle, he said.

"Soot and hydrocarbons from burned oil are carcinogenic and the number of malignancies in the Gulf countries is likely to rise," Vorontsov said.

Participants in the news conference expressed alarm at the possibility of the use of unconventional weapons in the Gulf, saying this will threaten other parts of the world.

"The Soviet Union is in a high state of readiness to combat the catastrophe," Vorontsov told reporters. The Soviet Union has experience, hardware and specialists.

"Should the war end, the Soviet Union could take part in the multinational clean up," he said.

Embassy Officials in Baghdad Leave for Tehran

LD3001185791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1819 GMT 31 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Ravil Musin]

[Text] Tehran, 30 Jan (TASS)—Thirty-two employees of the USSR Embassy in Baghdad arrived in Tehran tonight. All are in good health. They will take a scheduled Aeroflot flight to Moscow on Thursday [31 January].

R.N. Melikov, USSR consul in Iraq, reported in his conversation with a TASS correspondent that initially 38 people were supposed to be leaving. Six Soviet journalists had to remain in Iraq because the local authorities did not allow them to leave Baghdad. The reasons for refusing to allow the journalists to leave was not made clear. Thirteen employees, headed by a consul, currently remain in the USSR Embassy in Baghdad. We are grateful to the Iraqi side for the fact that it arranged and ensured our transfer from the border to Tehran quickly and swiftly, the Soviet consul said.

In his words, nearly all Baghdad inhabitants have been evacuated. From the early days of military operations they cut off electricity and running water supplies. The lack of bread is evident but there are enough fruit and vegetables in the Iraqi capital.

This is the second group of Soviet citizens to have left Iraq via Iranian territory. Last week 97 Soviet specialists were taken out via Khosravi, a border point on the border between Iraq and Iran; they flew to the USSR from Tehran.

Turkish, Palestinian Envoys Interviewed on War

91UM0316A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Jan 91 First Edition p 3

[Interviews with Turkish and Palestinian ambassadors in the USSR by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA observer R. Mustafin; place and date not given: "War Brings Suffering to the Peoples"]

[Text] We continue our interviews with diplomats of states situated in the zone of combat operations. Today they answered the questions of our observer R. Mustafin:

Volkan Vural, ambassador of Turkey in the USSR

[Mustafin] Despite the efforts of the world community, war in the Persian Gulf has not been avoided. What can you, Mr. Ambassador, say in connection with the start of combat operations?

[Vural] We sincerely regret the start of war. Alas, diplomatic and other efforts did not produce the results for which people throughout the world were hoping. These efforts proved in vain. The war could entail very tragic consequences not only for the peoples of the region but for the peoples of the whole world also. Nonetheless, this was a forced step.

[Mustafin] Iraq has launched several missile attacks against Israel. To what extent, in your opinion, is a change in the quality of the war likely following these attacks?

[Vural] It is perfectly obvious that Iraq is trying to extend the framework and scale of the war and turn it into a war between Arabs and Israelis. But I believe that this tactical move of the Iraqis has not fooled either Arab or world public opinion. The fact that Israel has refrained from a retaliatory strike, up to present, at least, testifies to an understanding of the real motives for such a step on the part of Iraq.

[Mustafin] Your forecasts as to the timeframe and scale of the present war in the Persian Gulf?

[Vural] First of all, everyone should be clearly aware of what has happened in this region: One state or, let us say, the leadership of one state is opposed simultaneously to many states, which are acting in accordance with UN resolutions. I am sure that this situation in itself predetermines the outcome of the war. There is no doubt that Iraq will not win this war. There can be no doubt of this.

I believe. That Kuwait will be liberated is also not in doubt. The allies will be victorious inasmuch as they have considerable advantages. I would like to emphasize particularly here that we hope that the war will be over as soon as possible and that it will thus be possible to avoid big losses among the Iraqi people. This is a key issue at the present time. We call on the Iraqi leader to display political wisdom and simply common sense to avoid unnecessary casualties. I would also like to mention the feelings of profound affection which the Turkish people nurture in respect of the people of Iraq. Iraq is our neighbor. We do not wish for casualties among the Iraqis.

[Mustafin] The mass media are reporting that allied aircraft have recently been using Turkish territory for air raids against Iraq. Does this mean that Turkey has opened a second front against Iraq? If so, will this second front be confined merely to the operations of the aircraft of the states that are a part of the anti-Iraq coalition?

[Vural] I would like to make it clear straight away that there is no second front. The Turkish Government declared right at the start of the conflict that Turkish Armed Forces would not commence combat operations against Iraq if Iraq carried out no first strike against Turkey. We will begin to fight only when the need for self-defense arises. Nonetheless, there is the well-known UN Security Council Resolution 678. In accordance with it, we have permitted allied aircraft to use our bases.

[Mustafin] There are weapons of mass destruction in the region. Their possible use presents a serious threat not only to the peoples living here but also, it may be said without exaggeration, to the whole world. What can you say in this connection?

[Vural] This is an extraordinarily important matter. I believe that it should be examined as soon as possible after the conclusion of the present crisis. We need to examine as quickly as possible the possibilities of, if not the complete, at least a significant reduction in them.

With Sa'id Abu-'Imarah, minister extraordinary of the Embassy of the State of Palestine in the USSR

[Mustafin] How do you evaluate the present situation in the region?

[Abu-'Imarah] The war that has commenced is undoubtedly not in the interests of the Palestinian people. We advocate that the world community find as quickly as possible a political solution, find a way out of the current situation. Unfortunately, all efforts for a solution of the crisis were blocked by the position of the United States. It was the United States that planned to strike at Iraq from the very outset.

Our position is as clear as could be. The PLO has advocated and continues to advocate a diplomatic, peaceful solution. The conflict in the Persian Gulf is a conflict between two Arab countries, which should and could be settled without foreign military interference within the framework of the Arab home. The United States thwarted attempts to find an Arab solution of the crisis. It massed an immense number of troops—both American and from countries that are its allies—and has launched a powerful assault against Iraq. Palestinians, like the peoples of the developing countries also, are well aware of the position and aims of the United States. Its aim is not defense of the interests of the Kuwaiti or Saudi peoples. It is there to ensure the protection of Israel and the protection of its own interests in the region and to strike at the Arabs. Its purpose is to prevent strategic balance in the Near East, which would contribute to a worthy and just solution of the Arab problem.

We believe that the sole means of halting the war is the immediate convening of an international Near East conference to solve all problems of the Near East region.

[Mustafin] How likely is a change in the quality of the war following the missile attacks on the part of Iraq against Israel?

[Abu-'Imarah] We believe that Iraq's missile attacks on Israel testify that the war in the Persian Gulf is a continuation of the Arab-Israeli war, which has essentially been going on for many decades.

[Mustafin] Your opinion in respect of the timeframe and scale of the war?

[Abu-'Imarah] We believe that the war should be curtailed as quickly as possible, otherwise it will bring not only the peoples of the region but also of the whole world incalculable sufferings. The PLO calls on the international community to exert efforts to halt the war in the Persian Gulf and provide for the possibility of negotiations between the belligerents in order to achieve a peaceful solution.

East Europe

Ignatenko Denies Interference in CSFR Affairs

LD2901195591 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1730 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] The Soviet Union categorically denies the claims concerning interference in the internal affairs of sovereign Czechoslovakia, Vitaliy Ignatenko, the Soviet president's press spokesman, has said with regard to the recent remarks made on Swedish television by Colonel Viktor Alksnis, deputy to the Soviet legislature. In this interview, Alksnis claimed that Moscow had a share in the 18 November 1989 events in Czechoslovakia and that he had evidence of this.

Ignatenko described as sheer disinformation the deputy's claim that the so called salvation committees in the Baltic republics were formed at Mikhail Gorbachev's instigation.

Army Soldier Given Asylum in Czechoslovakia

PM3001111191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Jan 91 First Edition p 2

[Report by correspondent Colonel P. Chernenko under the rubric "Inside Story": "Kuzevanov, Kvasnicka, and Co."]

[Text] CTK reported on 11 January that the relevant Czechoslovak authorities have granted a request for political asylum from Aleksey Kuzevanov, a former Soviet Army soldier and member of the Central Group of Forces. He is the first Soviet citizen to be given refugee status in Czechoslovakia.

Many of the mass media in the CSFR are now presenting Kuzevanov as a man "who does not agree with communism" and who has no wish to "serve communists," as a soldier in "an Army of occupation," and as a virtual champion of democracy and justice. But is that really true?

It is very often the case that a person is not renowned for being hard-working, does not have impeccable morals, and is not blessed with any special virtues. So he begins to seek justification for his behaviour in order to go some way toward vindicating himself in the eyes of his fellow servicemen.

That is what happened with Private Kuzevanov. When he took up his post in an artillery regiment of the Central Group of Forces after completing his subunit training, his fellow servicemen immediately noticed his dislike of physical work. He did not put himself out in service and tried to shift his responsibilities onto others. He repeatedly went AWOL. Sometimes, several hours would pass before he was found. He, meanwhile, would be hidden away somewhere, taking a nap....

He never did settle down in the artillery regiment. So they met him halfway. They transferred him to a repair battalion. But even there he "had it his own way." Obviously, neither his commanders nor his fellow servicemen could forgive this: Kuzevanov was cajoled and punished. Then he decided to desert.

It goes without saying that it would be best to hear what Kuzevanov has to say for himself. Why did he decide on betrayal? Unfortunately, we cannot ask him. His whereabouts is still being kept secret. All we know is that he is being hidden by the Czech director Kvasnicka, who removed Kuzevanov from the camp and is now making a movie, "Refugees from Hell," in which the main "heroes" are deserters like Kuzevanov. But I am convinced that betrayal always remains betrayal, however it is dressed up. Its nature is always the same.

New Border Crossing to Poland Opened

LD3001141591 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Now about something more pleasant. The new border crossing that has been opened in Volhynia will shorten the way for the automobile tourists wishing to travel to Poland by several hundred kilometers. This, already the third window to Europe in the Ukraine, was opened in order to ease the ever-increasing flow of tourists. For the time being, only crossings to and from Poland are being handled. The Yagodinskiy crossing—as it is called—will in the future exceed in its capacity the largest one in Brest and will deal with tourists traveling to all foreign countries.

Supreme Soviet

Text of Resolution on Persian Gulf War Issued

91UM0279A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jan 91 First Edition p 1

[Resolution "On Military Operations in the Persian Gulf Area and Steps Undertaken by the Soviet Leadership" issued by the USSR Supreme Soviet at the Kremlin in Moscow on 17 Januar[illegible]

[Text] Having heard and considered the report of USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs A.A. Bessmertnykh on the situation in the Persian Gulf area and expressing profound regret in connection with it that the crisis situation in this region has taken a tragic turn and in fact is growing into a large-scale war, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium resolves:

1. To support the statement of USSR President M.S. Gorbachev regarding military operations in the Persian Gulf area and the steps taken in this connection by the Soviet leadership.

2. To deem it necessary that the government of the USSR, consistently continuing the political policy of the Soviet Union with respect to the conflict in the Persian Gulf, continuously inform the USSR Supreme Soviet of the development of events occurring there. To submit to the USSR Cabinet of Ministers the proposals and comments of USSR people's deputies made during the course of deliberations.

3. To instruct the USSR Supreme Soviet Committee on International Affairs to summarize information on the question under consideration and to submit it to the USSR people's deputies.

On behalf of the USSR people's deputies, who represent various deputy groups and associations, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium appeals to the parliamentarians of all countries to use their influence and resources for an immediate cessation of military operations.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium appeals to the United Nations and to the UN secretary general to renew initiatives aimed at settling the military crisis in the Persian Gulf area and preventing its further expansion.

[Signed] A. Lukyanov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet

The Kremlin, Moscow

17 January 1991

Nishanov Chairs Referendum Commission Session

LD2901211491 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Report by correspondent A. Barkhatov; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Barkhatov] A meeting of the USSR Central Commission on the Referendum, which is scheduled for 17 March this year, took place today. The commission, in whose work Comrade Nishanov, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, took part, unanimously approved a package of documents for organizing this action which is unusual for our country. In connection with the fact that a number of republican supreme soviets have not yet discussed the issue of their central and district commissions, the time limits for organizing them has been extended to 2 February. Let us recall the main things: The voting slip for a secret ballot which was approved today contains a question which we are all requested to answer voluntarily and unequivocally: Do you think it is necessary to preserve the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a renewed federation of equal and sovereign republics which will fully guarantee the rights and freedoms of people of any nationality?

The answer should be yes or no. There are already different views, however, on the legal evaluations of the results of the documents.

[Begin recording] [G.V. Barabashev, central commission member, doctor of juridical sciences] The real content of the referendum is consultative. It is to clarify public opinion. Of course, many things may proceed from that or many things may be built on that, as it were. However, it will be impossible to implement it for the entire union and all republics as a legal obligation, to make them join the union because the population has voted this way, since it is precisely a question of the concrete content of the treaty. Otherwise it makes no sense.

[Barkhatov] Has any USSR republic refused to hold the USSR referendum on its territory?

[V.P. Orlov, chairman of the Central Commission for the USSR Referendum] Today I do not have any data on republics refusing to hold it. One should keep in mind the fact that the Supreme Soviet's decision on organizing and holding the referendum contains quite a clear provision to the effect that the supreme bodies of state power in the republics, local soviets, and their executive bodies must organize the holding of the referendum.

[Barkhatov] Tell us, please, there has been a proposal by Rafik Nishanovich Nishanov on the need to use special procedures for taking into account the personnel of the military units which, say, are stationed in the Baltic republics, for example. I have in mind servicemen on regular service.

[Orlov] Today we are guided by the Law on the Election of USSR People's Deputies. Properly speaking, the commission will adopt its decisions in accordance with it. We will, apparently, examine the proposals that are being submitted but we will be strictly guided by the law for holding the USSR referendum which is in force today. [end recording]

Budget Panel Head Views Supreme Soviet Session

PM3101103791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 91 Union Edition p 2

[Interview with V. Kucherenko, chairman of the Soviet of the Union Planning, Budget, and Finance Commission by legislative correspondent S. Chugayev; place and date not given: "V. Kucherenko: We Are Adopting Good Laws, But There Are Fewer and Fewer Goods"]

[Text] [Chugayev] The USSR Supreme Soviet session which has just completed its work was unusual in many ways. The events in the country which provided the backdrop to the session, the decisions adopted, the duration of the work—all these things, and indeed much else besides, enable us to characterize the last session as an important stage in the Union legislature's activity, a definite step in its development. Well, where did this session differ from previous sessions for you personally?

[Kucherenko] For me personally this session was, maybe, the most difficult. The drafting of the bills which have such a vital significance for the country today fell to the lot of our commission. What a job the drafting of the banking laws was alone! You see, from the version proposed to us by the government, virtually nothing was left by the end of the day.

And of course, there was the plan and the budget. It was very difficult. We lost time. On several occasions I attended the sessions of the Federation Council where the conclusion of an economic agreement among the republics was discussed. This was also a far from easy task. I remember that, in presenting the draft budget to the Council of the Federation, I said that if the council continued to work in this way then we should expect nothing good to come of it. The council members are politicians and are more adept in politics than economics, but they have a lot of self-assurance. And so the signing of the economic agreement dragged on until 10 January.

[Chugayev] And what moment of the session's work was the most difficult for you?

[Kucherenko] The moment when defense expenditure was examined. There was a lot of fuss over this article of the budget. The gist of the question was that in the government's proposals defense spending was reduced by approximately 8 percent. In 1989, defense spending was 77 billion rubles [R], in 1990 it was R70.5 billion, and for 1991 the figure of R63.5 billion was proposed. When we recalculated the whole budget in the new prices, however, the result was defense spending on the order of R98 billion. This gave rise to suggestions that the military budget had grown, that we were wanting to spend R98 billion on defense, but only R2 billion on culture. But at the same time not a word was said about the recalculation of prices, nor about the fact that many items of expenditure had been transferred from the Union budget to the republic budgets. Yes, R2 billion was allocated in the budget for culture. But after all, this is only the expenditure on centralized, Union programs, to fund cultural centers of unionwide significance such as the Lenin Library, the Bolshoy Theater, and the Hermitage. But in the country as a whole expenditure to the tune of R40 billion has been provided for culture.

In addition, when examining the version of the military budget proposed by the government we decided to reduce it by R2 billion. The general staff was asking for R103 billion, the government proposed R98 billion, and our commission proposed R96 billion. The reaction from the military and the military-industrial complex was very fierce. They tried to convince us that, even as it was, defense expenditure had decreased by R14 billion over the last two years and that the military had already reached an impasse. That the redeployment of troops from Europe was taking place and we were depriving the military of the resources to accommodate them. We declared at that time that the Armed Forces' expenditure on social needs should in no event be touched. That the purchase of new weapons and expenditure on military construction should be reduced. All the time these disputes were continuing I was tortured by the thought: Aren't we making a mistake by sticking to our guns? The critical moment was the very fierce debates on this subject which flared up at the session during the discussion of this part of the budget. Most of the deputies supported our proposals. And today I can see that we acted correctly.

[Chugayev] Is it possible to conclude from this that you are satisfied with the results of the session's work?

[Kucherenko] On the contrary, I am dissatisfied with them. What alarms me most of all is this: The Supreme Soviet is now occupied with its proper business—preparing laws. These are mostly sound, fine documents which are fully in line with with our goal—transition to the market. They are fully capable of standing up to any international expert analysis—and such analysis has been carried out more than once. But look what is happening: We are adopting good laws, but there are fewer and fewer goods in the stores. But the flow of money is growing. And not only with regard to citizens, in the consumer market, but also with regard to enterprises. Hence the rise in prices and the growth of crime in the economy. And all this is happening seemingly regardless of the Supreme Soviet. What should be done here? I cannot give a prescription right now. After all, the USSR Supreme Soviet is a legislative organ. Should it forget about laws, sit down, and examine how some sector or other produces consumer goods? Fire some people, give such and such instructions to others? But then, of course, from being a legislative organ we will have turned into yet another executive organ.

[Chugayev] Like no others maybe you and your commission have had to be in contact with members of the government during the session. But here too there have been changes. Do you expect changes in relations with the new government in this connection?

[Kucherenko] From the moment our commission was set up the practice was instituted of establishing businesslike, constructive relations with the leaders of ministries and departments. Thus, these relations have developed on the basis of businesslike cooperation and mutual respect. I believe they will remain so subsequently, too. At the same time I have recently formed the impression that the country's Supreme Soviet and its committees and commissions have crushed the government underfoot too much. So much so that this has been counterproductive. In the last 18 months ministers have done nothing else but go to the Supreme Soviet for permission to do something. We should put an end to this situation, I think. Everyone should do his own job. If we have agreed with the president's choice of ministers, we should give these ministers the opportunity to work.

[Chugayev] You have had to work closely with the country's new prime minister. What impressions has this collaboration left you with?

[Kucherenko] I expressed my opinion about V. Pavlov once at a meeting with the president, when his candidacy for the post of prime minister was discussed. My impression has not changed since then. And this is that I believe the president has made the right choice. Pavlov is a knowledgeable specialist, a man who is bold and decisive. At the same time I have formed the impression that, having spent too much time in the higher echelons of power, and having an excellent understanding of global financial and economic laws, Pavlov does not have a clear idea of what economic processes are currently unfolding below, at the enterprise level. His habit of taking as much as possible from enterprises to give to the state is also noticeable. Although today, in my view, we should be giving enterprises the maximum opportunities for development. However, he has his deputies who have maintained their connections with the producers. Indeed, we too shall be following attentively the activity of the country's Cabinet of Ministers.

Political & Social

Cabinet Banknote Exchange Discussion Detailed

LD3001224391 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Jan 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] At its sitting today, the USSR Cabinet of Ministers, chaired by Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov, considered the preliminary results of the exchange of 50- and 100-ruble [R] banknotes, and planned further measures to complete the work. Information was presented by Comrade Gerashchenko, chairman of the board of the USSR State Bank.

The results of the exchange of banknotes confirmed the necessity and timeliness of that action. As of 25 January, over R8 billion had not been presented for exchange. In many cases, black market channels were discovered.

On the whole, most of the country's population carried out the exchange of banknotes in an organized manner and before the deadline. The USSR Government's decision to extend the time limit for pensioners and several categories of working people in individual areas was justified. However, in a number of places, and especially in Moscow, the organization of the money exchange took place with evident delay, despite the adequate amount of it [money] in the capital's vaults. This had given rise to justified censure by the population.

Summing up the results of the discussion, Comrade Pavlov stressed that the decisive stage of the work in hand had begun—when the deputies' commissions of the local soviets were obliged to meticulously and objectively examine each sum of money presented for exchange. All honestly earned funds must be returned in full to their owners. At the same time, the commissions are urged to take all necessary measures to prevent the return of illegal, non-labor accumulations. This calls for a principled civic stance by members of the rayon and town commissions and commissions at enterprises, as well as their precise and effective work in close interaction with the banks and law-enforcement agencies. Only the backing of the whole population can ensure success in the fight against obtaining non-labor income.

At the session of the USSR Government, the wish was expressed that the mass media should deeply and comprehensively analyze the progress and results of the money exchange and should give them objective coverage to ensure the successful completion of that important socioeconomic measure.

CPSU Central Committee Plenum Previewed

LD3001200391 Moscow TASS in English 1922 GMT 30 Jan 91

[By TASS world service news analyst Andrey Orlov]

[Text] Moscow January 30 TASS— A regular plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party (CPSU), the Soviet Union's most influential party, will open in the Kremlin on Thursday [31 January] morning.

The state of affairs in the country and the tasks for the CPSU for the future are expected to be discussed at the plenum.

Although the plenum's agenda is somewhat vague, it promises to be highly interesting—even stormy, as Politburo Member Aleksandr Dzasokhov put it. There are several reasons for this prediction, including the grave situation in the country's economy, the growing political instability, particularly after the January events in the Baltic republics that gave rise to non-uniform reaction in the Soviet Union and abroad, and the mounting tension in relations between the centre and Union republics.

All these matters will be discussed at the plenum's Thursday session. The course of preparation of a new Union treaty is also expected to become a central topic.

An item concerning the role of the party in the life of Soviet society at the present stage stands somewhat apart. The CPSU, which over the past 15 months has been a target of the most pungent criticism, has lost, for various reasons, 2.3 million members out of the 19.2 million it had as of January 1, 1990.

It seems that the party is now launching a counteroffensive. This, in my view, is illustrated by both the change in the tone of the party press and the party's clearly larger role in making major decisions.

Despite numerous demands from radicals, President Mikhail Gorbachev also retains the party's top post. Moreover, since autumn last year the party succeeded in markedly consolidating its positions in higher power bodies of the country, specifically by gaining acceptance of its candidate for the country's vice-presidency.

The fact that the plenum is held on the eve of this year's third session of the Federation Council—a new body that received wide powers after the Fourth Congress of USSR People's Deputies—is far from fortuitous.

And finally, the plenum will also discuss explosive but inevitable radical economic measures. The exchange of banknotes a week ago became the first step in taking such measures.

Resolute steps to changing retail prices can now be expected. This issue is rather painful in any country (particularly in the USSR) and requires understanding from the most influential politial forces.

It seems that, following several months of hesitation and struggle, the Soviet leadership has at last chosen a moderate-conservative option of economic reform, which with many minuses has at least one plus: it leaves considerable managerial levers in the government's hands.

Results of the plenary meeting of the CPSU, which remains the country's major and most influential party, will in many respects determine the process of reforms in the Soviet Union.

Ivashko on Plenum; Dismisses Fears for Glasnost

PM3001211091 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jan 91 p 1

[Interview with V. Ivashko, deputy general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, by A. Pankratov; place and date not given: " 'There Is No Longer the Former Unanimity in the Party'"]

[Text] [Ivashko] The main question at the combined plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and Central Control Commission that opens on 31 January will be a discussion of the situation in the country. I have been instructed to deliver a report "On the Current Moment." In addition, the plenum will examine the drafts of eight new CPSU normative and methodological documents—five instructions and three provisions. In accordance with the Law on Social Organizations, the Communist Party—or, more precisely, its current Statutes—must undergo registration. Other questions are also to be submitted, including cadre questions. For instance, after his election as vice president of the country, it is difficult for Gennadiy Ivanovich Yanayev to continue his work as CPSU Central Committee secretary. The plenum also has to decide whether he will remain a Politburo member.

But I must explain that this is the agenda proposed by the Politburo. In these times, life itself could make all kinds of amendments.

After all, what does "the current moment" mean? It means the whole of life around us—something happens every day. The public awareness at the moment is ruffled, as one of my colleagues put it, and naturally this will be reflected vividly in the discussion that lies ahead.

My report will begin with a few questions of principle—I will certainly speak about the stance of the Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat on the main issues. About loyalty to the 28th party congress decisions, support for the line pursued by the country's leadership in upholding our people's interests, the unchanging nature of the Soviet foreign policy course, and so forth.

About the Communist Party's stance: I can say that the last thing we want to do is to concern ourselves endlessly with internal party matters, although our political opponents would like to push us in that direction—stick to your own problems, they say. We categorically refuse to agree to that. We take on board everything that happens not only in the party, but in society. You know, it may seem paradoxical—even I was surprised—but the CPSU Central Committee's mailbag has recently increased sharply.

But the main thing is this: There is no longer (thank heavens!) the former unanimity in the party—the range of opinions is vast. Of course, too great a range is not right, either—in that case it would not be a party any more. But the range must be set not by the limits of administrative diktat, but by analysis and thought.

You can—I am speaking hypothetically—hold an extreme left or extreme right position. But according to the laws of mathematical logic, it is in the center that the precise expression of public opinion will be concentrated.

[Pankratov] Vladimir Antonovich, many people today are worried about what will become of our glasnost and freedom of speech, which have not yet become firmly established. Will this be discussed?

[Ivashko] To a greater or lesser extent I am one of the people who were in at the beginning of perestroyka, and

I think that freedom of speech and the press is the normal state of a normal society. At the same time I suppose there has never been any such thing in the world as a free press, if you take that term in its absolute sense. If only because a newspaper has an editor, not all journalists are absolutely free.

But in fact I think it is frankly unscrupulous to characterize the whole of the press in any way. Like public opinion and public awareness and like the country's political forces, the press has taken sides, that is, each newspaper reflects the interests of a specific group of people, and, as they rightly say, the interests of a specific group of readers. That is normal, too.

And therefore there is no talk within the walls of the CPSU Central Committee of infringing, eliminating, restricting, or even "suppressing" glasnost or any specific mass media organs.

Yes, it is true that we are dissatisfied with many published items—only not because they reflect different viewpoints, but because they are anticommunist and sometimes shamelessly false in nature. This is frankly not to the credit of the people responsible. But nowadays there are legitimate ways and means of influencing them—taking them to court, for instance. It is well known that no one likes criticism. But it is not a question of personal grievances. The most important thing is, after all, the journalist's conscience.

Possible Strike Over Resignation of Editor

PM3001212891 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jan 91 p 1

["Own Information" report: "IZVESTIYA: Bad News"]

[Text] A meeting was held at the IZVESTIYA editorial office yesterday, and it is no exaggeration to say that virtually the whole of Moscow's journalism world was awaiting its outcome.

The fact is that on the previous day I.N. Golembiovskiy, IZVESTIYA's first deputy chief editor, was invited to the USSR Supreme Soviet. He was offered a transfer to a different job not connected with running the newspaper.

Naturally, this is an internal matter for the editorial office and its founder—the Supreme Soviet. But a whole series of factors make it impossible to regard this as an innocuous personnel reshuffle. Back in the spring, when the question of a new chief editor for IZVESTIYA arose, at a meeting the collective unanimously nominated their candidate—Igor Golembiovskiy. The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decided otherwise, and N.I. Yefimov was appointed chief editor, with Golembiovskiy as his first deputy.

The present proposal that Golembiovskiy should change his job was preceded by many conflicts and by the removal of sensitive items from issues of the newspaper and their political "correction," formerly an extremely rare event. That is why this personnel incident has been perceived by journalists as an attempt to curb one of the country's leading newspapers.

By a unanimous decision of the meeting, IZVESTIYA categorically protests against Golembiovskiy's resignation and demands an urgent meeting with USSR Supreme Soviet Chairman A.I. Lukyanov, and in the event that the decision remains unchanged, it reserves the right to seek satisfaction of its demands by lawful means (meaning a strike).

Gorbachev at Conference of First Secretaries

LD3001213591 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Jan 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A conference of the first secretaries of the Central Committees of the Communist Parties of the Union republics and of republican, kray and oblat party committees took place today.

Under consideration were questions of a more energetic approach by the CPSU toward the fundamental problems of society, the organization of interaction in all its structures, and the mastery of new experience of political actions.

The conference was opened by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. A report was presented by Comrade Shenin, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The conference was also addressed by Gidaspov, first secretary of the Leningrad CPSU obkom; Abeyev, first secretary of the Kamchatka CPSU obkom; Posibeyev, first secretary of the Mari republican CPSU committee; Burokevicius, first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee; Volodin, first secretary of the Orel CPSU obkom; Rubiks, first secretary of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee; Kolinichenko, first secretary of the Orenburg CPSU obkom; Stroyev, member of the politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Anipkin, first secretary of the Volgograd CPSU okbom; Myalitsa, first secretary of the Kharkov obkom of the Ukrainian Communist Party; Karimov, first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee and president of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic; Merzlikin, first secretary of the Chita CPSU obkom; Markarov, first secretary of the Lvov obkom of the Ukrainian Communist Party.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev addressed those attending the conference.

A more detailed account of the conference will be published in the press.

Shenin Speaks at Conference

LD3001214391 Moscow TASS in English 2047 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 30 TASS—The Soviet Communist Party (CPSU) has lately taken important measures to consolidate its ranks, consistently upholding the socialist choice, which gave rise to reaction from destructive forces and to a flare-up of anti-communism and separatism, Oleg Shenin, Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stated here today.

He delivered a report at a meeting of the first secretaries of the Central Committees of the Communist Parties of Union republics, republican, territorial and regional committees of the party.

Under these conditions, the CPSU must cease underestimating its own possibilities and its political strength, Shenin said.

"The party's practical work should focus on first priority measures, suggested by the country's president and endorsed by the Fourth Congress of USSR People's Deputies, to overcome the socio- economic and political crisis situation in the country.

"It is a question of a democratic renewal of the Union, transition to market relations through priority implementation of the programme to stabilise the economy and to ensure the social protection of the population, and the formation of an effective system of executive power bodies," Shenin said.

Speaking about key matters of the strategy and tactics of the CPSU's activities to normalise the socio-economic situation, Shenin said that much in this respect depends on the party's cooperation with local governing councils.

Relations with them should be determined by cooperation, not confrontation, he said.

"It is essential to actively gain experience in parliamentary work. The party should have support among mass movements, trade unions, Komsomol (Young Communist League) and veteran organisations and have influence among workers and farmers. It is difficult to imagine the CPSU's fully competent activity without a broad support for its policy on the part of intellectuals," Shenin said.

Saying that the party is open to cooperation with other parties and political movements, he emphasised that legality, political methods, dialogue and discussions, renunciation of violence as a means of political struggle, and decency are principles for such cooperation.

Those present were addressed by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev.

Makhov Appointed CPSU Commission Chair

LD3001125991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1225 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow 30 Jan (TASS)—A plenum of the Central Control Commission of the CPSU took place today. It examined organizational issues.

Concerning the fact that Boris Pugo, chairman of the CPSU Central Control Commission, has been appointed minister of internal affairs of the USSR, and in consideration of the large volume of work in that important state post, the plenum placed the fulfilment of the duties of chairman of the Central Control Commission of the CPSU upon Yevgeniy Makhov, first deputy chairman of the CPSU Central Control Commission.

The plenum confirmed Mikhail Kodin, member of the the Presidium of the CPSU Central Control Commission, as deputy chairman of the CPSU Central Control Commission.

The plenum considered information from Yevgeniy Makhov on the work done by the Central Control Commission in implementing tasks arising from the decisions of the 28th congress of the party.

Commision's Goals Outlined

LD3001213191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Jan 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today a session of the CPSU Central Committee standing public-political commission was held to discuss the report at the CPSU Central Committee plenum on the work of Communists in soviets of people's deputies. The exchange of opinions showed the great interest of the discussion's participants in searching for more effective forms and methods for the activities of Communists in state power bodies. The key significance of the struggle for deputy mandates was stressed, as was the necessity of determining the party's tasks concerning the coming elections taking into account the lessons of past electoral campaigns.

In the opinion of a number of the commission's members, questions of the organizational and functional restructuring of party bodies should be examined, taking into account the assimilation of parliamentary methods of work and the necessity of paying constant attention to the activities of Communists in the soviets.

More on Commission Session

LD3101020891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1922 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 30 Jan (TASS)—The conception of the report at the plenum of the CPSU Central Commitee on the work of communists in soviets of people's deputies was discussed at a sitting today of the permanent socio-political commission of the CPSU Central Committee. It

was noted that parliamentary activity and the work of communists in the soviets is one of the fundamental issues in the successful discharging of the CPSU's political function in changed conditions. Moreover, one must take as one's starting point the fact that the CPSU is not a party of the traditional parliamentary type.

Many commission members consider it expedient to carry out an analysis of the development of the political system of Soviet society; to answer questions about the place and role of the CPSU, other parties and public movements within it, and about the prospects for the soviets as organs of democracy and self-rule; to show how the delineation of the functions of party and state bodies takes place in practice, and why the party has lost its influence in many soviets; and to establish the position of the CPSU regarding the creation of an effective system of executive power.

The sitting discussed the main directions and features of the work of party committees with communists in soviets and their executive bodies. It was noted that communist deputies must persistently master the art of parliamentary work and must really be the party's representatives in the organs of democracy. Emphasis was placed on the crucial importance of the struggle for deputies' seats and on the need to determine tasks for the party given the forthcoming elections, bearing in mind the lesssons of past electoral campaigns. Ideas were voiced about the issue of the CPSU's interaction with other sociopolitical forces both during electoral campaigns and in the soviets.

In the opinion of a number of the commission's members, questions of the organizational and functional restructuring of party bodies should be examined, taking into account the assimilation of parliamntary methods of work and the necessity of paying constant attention to the activities of communists in the soviets.

Referendum Commission Holds First Session

PM3101105191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jan 91 Second Edition p 8

[Report by V. Ivanov: "What Will Union Be Like?"]

[Text] The first session of the USSR Central Referendum Commission was held in Moscow yesterday.

The session adopted letters to the central republican, district, and polling station commissions. They describe in detail how the first all-union referendum is being prepared and how to hold it. The format of the ballot slip and other documents have been approved. The referendum will be held Sunday 17 March 1991 throughout the USSR's territory. The doors of the polling stations will open at 0700 hours. The polling of the population concerning the retention of the USSR as a federation of equal republics will end at 2000 hours.

Official Interviewed on 17 March Union Referendum

LD3001122491 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0519 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Interview with Dmitriy Golovko, deputy chairman of the Central Commission for the USSR Referendum, by correspondent Vladimir Korablev; place and date not given]

[Text] [Announcer] The first session of the Central Commission for the USSR Referendum took place yesterday [29 January]. It considered questions concerning the organization of this important sociopolitical measure. Our correspondent Vladimir Korablev spoke to Dmitriy Bogdanovich Golovko, deputy chairman of the Central Commission for the USSR Referendum:

[Begin recording] [Korablev] Dmitriy Bogdanovich, a most important issue will be decided during the referendum, the voting by the entire people, taking place on 17 March. Is our Union going to remain in the existing form, that is, a united state of many nationalities? What functions will be carried out by the Central Commission on holding the USSR referendum?

[Golovko] I agree completely with what you have said about the crucial nature of the referendum being held, especially since the decision that is going to be adopted in this referendum is a final one and will be binding on all the territories of our country: It can be repealed or changed only by means of a new referendum. And as it says in the law adopted by our country's Supreme Soviet, the organization functions for the holding of the referendum have been placed on the Central Electoral Commission and now has the authority of the USSR referendum commission.

We see our main task in structuring the preparatory work for the referendum and the referendum itself in such a way that the free will of every Soviet citizen is expressed and guaranteed without any pressure. Our commission has set the time for the voting—it has been fixed from 0700 - 2000 local time. We have adopted a number of letters of recommendation for the republican and constituency commissions. We simply share certain experience in the holding of elections for the Supreme Soviet. This experience will, to a considerable extent, also assist us in holding the referendum. But our commission is also faced with a large amount of work in calculating the results of the referendum.

[Korablev] Tell me please, who has the right to take part in the referendum in our country?

[Golovko] All citizens of the USSR who have reached the age of 18 years and who have the right to vote in accordance with the legislation of the USSR have the right to participate in the referendum.

[Korablev] Dmitriy Bogdanovich, are all the republics going to take part in the referendum?

[Golovko] Our commission on holding the referendum has no official information about any of the republics not intending to participate in the referendum.

[Korablev] But if, say, one of the republics does refuse to participate in the referendum: What will be the result of this on the final results?

[Golovko] The results of the voting in the referendum will be determined for the Union as a whole with due consideration for the results of the voting for each republic individually. Consequently, if some republic does not participate it will simply contribute a zero component to that total.

[Korablev] Is it possible for other questions to be asked during the course of the referendum?

[Golovko] This is a new question, you know, and as was suggested by the experience of what was effectively the first referendum in our country that has just been held in the Crimean oblast, this is not ruled out and our commission takes the view that the right should be given to the supreme bodies of power in the Union republics to take a decision on this matter and perhaps to take advantage of the general referendum on 17 March by adding some specific issue pertaining to the region in question. The Supreme Soviet of the Union republics will have the last word on this.

[Korablev] How will the results of the voting by the whole people on 17th March be determined?

[Golovko] The decision put to the referendum—in this case the issue of our Union—will be considered adopted if more than half the citizens who are on the voting list take part in the voting and if as a result of the referendum the issue is approved by more than half of the citizens who have participated in the voting. [end recording]

[Announcer] That was Dmitriy Bogdanovich Golovko, deputy chairman of the Central Commission for the USSR Referendum. I now have in my hands a copy of the ballot for voting in the USSR referendum that you will be submitting on 17 March. There is one sentence. I will read it: Do you consider it essential for the USSR to be preserved as a renewed federation of sovereign republics possessing equal rights and individual rights and freedoms of any nationality will be guaranteed in full measure?

Kulikov, Other Veterans on Yeltsin Baltic Stance

PM3001163791 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 31 Jan 91 First Edition p 3

[Letter to SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA signed by Marshal of the Soviet Union V. Kulikov and others: "Why Are They Ruining the Army?"]

[Text] We cannot help but voice our concern at the stance taken by the leadership of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] concerning events in the Baltic and at the statement on the creation of a Russian army. The address by B.N. Yeltsin, RSFSR Supreme Soviet chairman, to enlisted men, NCO's, and officers drafted into the Armed Forces on Russian territory aroused particular alarm. His statements are to all intents and purposes provocative. They urge Russian servicemen to violate the USSR Constitution and disobey the USSR president and the USSR Supreme Soviet. What is he urging them to do? To betray their commanders, chiefs, and combat comrades representing the other republics, to come into conflict with their conscience and Soviet laws.

This step has been taken at a time when the situation in the region is at its most explosive—Lithuanian television has all but announced the outbreak of war with the USSR when the military are described as "occupiers" and "colonists" and when troop unit installations and servicemen are attacked. Do these insults square with democratic concepts? Is the illegal attitude toward the families of servicemen on active service, discharged into the reserve, or pensioned off, the circulation of blacklists of members of the Russian-speaking population, and the creation of various militant formations in contravention of the law democratic? Destructive forces are making vigorous attempts to pit generals against the officer corps and the army against the people, to break it up from within, to dismantle the army as well as the Soviet Union and transform the whole country into individual principalities with their own borders, customs, currency, and lastly, armed forces.

We see the RSFSR Supreme Soviet session debate the question of creating a Russian army to defend the republic's sovereignty as an attempt to strike at our state's defense might. We who fought at the front to uphold our homeland's honor and dignity in the most arduous fight against fascism are well aware that we could never have vanquished the strong, perfidious enemy without unity and friendship and without the sense of comradeship between all nations and ethnic groups. But, instead of trying to reduce confrontation as far as possible and explain the ruinous impact this will have on the destinies of millions of people, B.N. Yeltsin and the parliamentarians who espouse his views have with their recent statements, addresses, and appeals been increasingly fanning an already explosive situation.

While expressing feelings of profound regret at what happened in Lithuania and Latvia and profound grief for the dead, we consider B.N. Yeltsin's position profoundly mistaken and extremely dangerous and demand that it be examined at the USSR and RSFSR Supreme Soviets and an appropriate decision adopted.

Marshal of the Soviet Union V. Kulikov, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet and deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Veteran and Invalid Affairs Committee
Marshal of Aviation G. Skorikov
Army General I. Yakovlev
Army General G. Salmanov

Marshal of Aviation P. Kirsanov
Fleet Admiral N. Sergeyev
Fleet Admiral A. Sorokin
Army General I. Shavrov
Army General M. Kozlov

Golik on New Law Enforcement Committee

LD3101105691 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 31 Jan 91

[Text] As is known, by decree of the USSR president, a committee has been set up to coordinate the activity of law enforcement bodies. Yuriy Vladimirovich Golik, chairman of the new committee, who is now in Kemerovo oblast attending to his duties as a deputy, replied to questions from a TASS correspondent.

Speaking of the aims and tasks of the committee, Comrade Golik said that during the first stage it will be to coordinate the efforts of the Interior Ministry, the Procuracy, the Ministry of Justice, and the KGB in the struggle against crime. The need to set up the committee is dictated by life itself. For, it was precisely in the years 1987 - 1989 that a qualitative leap took place in the development of crime, in the first place an increase in its level of organization and professionalism. That is a very dangerous tendency.

I considered, and I still do, Comrade Golik explained, that for the present it is not possible to totally put an end to crime, but it is necessary and possible to put it within firm limits of social control, and this must be done by professional specialists.

The change over to the market will throw up new types of violations of the law. This cannot be left out of account. But, will take up the challenge and make every effort to ensure that criminals understand that no one will stand on ceremony with them. We will respond to lawlessness with very severe measures envisaged by the law, Yuriy Vladimirovich Golik, chairman of the committee to coordinate the activity of law enforcement bodies, stated.

Liberal Forum Warns of Army-Militia Decree

LD3001174591 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] One more topical report provided by the INFORMATION NEWS AGENCY [IAN]. Creeping dictatorship—the danger of it has been discussed more frequently—is becoming a reality, asserts a statement by the organizational committee of the Liberal Forum public association, concerning the recent decree issued by the defense and interior ministers on the introduction of paratroopers' units patrolling settlements throughout the USSR alongside with militia, with effect from 1 February.

This order, in the Liberal Forum's opinion, practically introduces a state of emergency in the country without any sanction from the Union and republican parliaments. Partocracy [partokratiya] is striving to involve the Army in skirmishes with the peaceful population, and use it as a weapon to make short work of legal bodies of power, as has happened in the Baltic republics. We urge all citizens of the country to defend bodies of people's power, elected by them, by all peaceful means at their disposal, and not to allow hope for the country's civilized way out of the crisis to be stamped on, the statement says. We would like to remind you that the above information was provided by the INFORMATION NEWS AGENCY.

Myrikov Discusses Need for Joint Patrols

LD3101095991

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0700 GMT on 31 January carries a four-minute interview with Major General Nikolay Stepanovich Myrikov, first deputy of the Chief Administration of Internal Affairs of the Moscow city Executive Committee, by Anatoliy Fedorov concerning the order on joint patrols of Soviet cities.

Federov says that last year in Moscow more than 60,000 violations of the law were registered, and asks if the situation is still as bad. Myrikov says that in the past year the number of crimes in the streets and public places has increased by 11.5 percent. Crimes like robbery and rape have increased. Fedorov says this worries Muscovites. Myrikov says the past few days of January have not produced good results. Street crime has increased by 44 percent. Many letters have been received with requests to strengthen street patrols so people can return home in peace. Today, the shortfall in the rank and file alone amounts to 3,500 men, and the voluntary people's squads have distintegrated. The joint order is thus designed to unite the efforts of militia and troop details in fighting crime. In Moscow 38 percent of street crimes are committed in a state of inebriation. "Cases of crimes being committed by servicemen who have gone absent without leave and persons refusing to respond to conscription are not unique," Myrikov adds.

Asked how the patrols will be armed, Myrikov says there is no question of machine guns and armor. Soldiers will have bayonets and officers will have pistols. Militia will have only standard arms. There will be no encroachments on democracy, he says.

A statement "On the Union Treaty and the Referendum" was adopted, with an appeal to the union republic parliaments to "hold not an all-union referendum but republic referendums." It is proposed to include the following questions on the secret ballot papers:

—Do you consider it possible to preserve the USSR as a unified federative state?

—Do you consider it necessary to transform the USSR into a community of sovereign states?

"If republic referenda are not held," the statement reads, "we must urge citizens to reject the wording proposed by the USSR Supreme Soviet."

In its appeal to young people the DC urged them to "overcome political apathy and disunity, actively participate in political life, and join general democratic, social democratic, and liberal organizations." A special statement was adopted in connection with the joint patrolling order of the USSR minister of defense and the USSR minister of internal affairs, describing the order as "the virtual introduction of martial law."

Lev Ubozhko, chairman of the Conservative Party of the Soviet Union, was removed from the sessions hall on the recommendation of the Russian Federation delegation. Ubozhko responded by issuing a protest and using unprintable retorts addressed to certain conference participants. In the opinion of Valeriy Salin, conference delegate from the Kharkov organization of the Ukrainian Democratic Revival Party, "Ubozhko's outburst was just as provocative as all his activity."

Krychkov Meets With Leaders of 'Centrist Bloc'

LD3001194991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1837 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 30 Jan (TASS)—KGB Chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov today received the leaders "of the Centrist Bloc of Political Parties and Movements" at the latter's request.

A frank exchange of views took place on topical issues of the situation in the country and on measures to stabilize it and to consolidate society on a constitutional basis.

The participants in the meeting expressed their adherence to the process of the development of democratization and glasnost in the country and to forming a new federation on the basis of the Union Treaty, the protection of human rights, and strict compliance with all-Union legislation and the USSR president's decrees.

Kalugin Criticized on Talinn Explosions

PM3001151191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jan 91 First Edition p 8

["Rejoinder" by A. Vasilyev: "Looking To Heat Things Up"]

[Text] One might have thought that in our turbulent times it would be difficult to plunge the reader or radio listener into a state of apoplexy; after all, as it is, he is never out of it. But no! Every day brings new passions! I will venture to suggest: If we have, maybe, already fallen behind Ethiopia in terms of the quantity of roast meat, then in terms of "cooked up" facts we are already "in front of the whole planet."

The other day the latest "hot dish" was served up on the airwaves of Radio Rossii: "It was said at a morning briefing that two explosions had occurred in Tallinn—at the headquarters of the 'Intermovement' and at the strike committee." The announcer went on to inform us of the latest exposes by ex-KGB General O. Kalugin, who at just about this time had turned up in the Estonian capital. "Kalugin says that these two explosions were planned and carried out by staffers of the state security organs."

What is this, reader? The KGB again! Well, as far as this organization is concerned, all is clear here, as they say. It does not matter that the republic mass media disseminated the local KGB's denial of involvement in the explosions: "I don't believe it!"—"I do-o-n't believe it!" as Stanislavskiy used to say. It is to no avail, perhaps, that the "democratic" press exposes the machinations of the chekists day in and day out. If there ever was any respectable person there, then even he—O. Kalugin—has been fired.

Well now, this Kalugin, what a man is Kalugin! He obviously knew about the explosions that were being plotted (else whence such categorical assertiveness in Radio Rossii's statement?), but he kept mum.

Ah, Oleg Danilovich, our protector! How could you not show timely concern for the souls of the people! And what if someone had bought it!! You wouldn't then have set eyes on the heavenly paradise that you have become so covetous in the twilight of your years. But, thank goodness, there were no casualties. And once again, head held proudly high, you can mount the rally platform. And again with a general's (never mind that it's an ex-general's) tone lambaste your former comrades in arms. Even so, you should be polite. After all, as I understand it, it is not a question of disagreements about the forms and methods of work that were "forcibly" foisted on you in the KGB. The crux of the matter is quite different. You, an experienced counterintelligence operative, felt that your rating was slipping. And in our day and age that is tantamount to political demise. Slinging mud at one's former colleagues (something at which Kalugin has been exceedingly successful) has already become a means of survival in the political battle.

"...In intelligence situations there can be no question of weakening in the ideological struggle"—this is also O. Kalugin, but in his capacity as a speaker at a service conference at the USSR KGB. The present writer is quoting Kalugin's words from a collection bought for one ruble in Moscow, "Absolutely Unclassified." You see, reader, how successfully the far from democratic opinions of the "democrat" Gen. Kalugin fits in with contemporary political patterns.

You go green with envy at how resourceful the former general is. Not one word, you see, of all he wrote or said in 38 years of service in the MGB [Ministry of State Security] and the KGB has been wasted —it brings in capital. Both in "democratic" points and in dollars. In the same "Collection" I read: "Reports have appeared in the British media that Kalugin's book is being prepared

for publication in the West, and he has been promised a fee of $1 million." Of course, this isn't the most respectable occupation—to count the money in someone else's pocket—but it will not be superfluous to recall that in the past it was precisely against dollar royalties that O. Kalugin, who headed the foreign counterintelligence of the USSR KGB at that time, struggled so zealously.

More on Kharkov 'Democratic Congress' Meeting

PM3001114991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by O. Medvedev of POSTFAKTUM: "Democratic Congress in Kharkov. Coalition of Country's Independent Parties and Movements Created"]

[Text] The creation of the "Democratic Congress' [DC] political bloc as "a coalition of independent parties and movements of a social democratic, liberal, national democratic, and general democratic orientation" was proclaimed at the constituent conference held 26-27 January. The main aims of the congress were announced as "consolidating the efforts of democratic forces for the peaceful liquidation of the totalitarian regime, creating sovereign democratic states, and dismantling imperial, unitary structures in a civilized form."

Participating in the conference's work were representatives of approximately 30 parties and movements, including the "Democratic Russia" movement, the "Rukh" Ukrainian People's Movement, the Belorussian People's Front, "Sajudis," the Republican Party of the Russian Federation, the Social Democratic Party of Russia, the Democratic Party of the Ukraine, the Ukrainian "Green" Party, the Ukrainian Democratic Revival Party, and the Belorussian United Democratic Party.

The statement adopted at the conference indicates the main tasks of DC activity: to coordinate positions and organize joint political actions and other kinds of cooperation in resolving tasks that are common to the democratic movement; to oppose the policy of diktat with regard to republics and organize nonviolent resistance to attempts to use violence and ideological terror; to shape public opinion in defense of democracy, independence, and civic peace against the fanning of interethnic strife, the provoking of disturbances, and the pushing of society toward civil war; to actively promote the protection of human rights recognized by the world community; to create a single information space ensuring a broad exchange of opinions, documents, and information and making them the property of all the parties to the DC and the public in the republic.

The conference participants rejected the proposal of Nikolay Travkin, chairman of the Democratic Party of Russia, to add the following point to the text of the statement: "The parties to the DC will actively oppose any attempts to infringe citizens' interests and freedoms, wherever they originate—from the center or from republic or local organs of power." In the opinion of representatives of a number of parties, this wording could sanction "interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states." In this connection Travkin declared that the Democratic Party of Russia would remain at the conference as an observer and that the question of its membership of the DC would be examined at a session of members of the party's board.

According to the statute "On the Democratic Congress" adopted at the conference, each party to the DC preserves its own independence. A DC consultative council is being set up to tackle the realization of joint programs. Provision is made for the creation of a DC information service, and the publication of a joint press organ is possible. A number of parties and movements signed a joint declaration expounding the concept of a treaty on a Eurasian community of states. Representatives from the Baltic region did not sign the declaration and did not participate in the vote on this question.

Economic

IZVESTIYA Notes Reaction to New Currency Decree

Public Confusion Noted

914A0375A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Jan 91 Union Edition pp 1, 2

[Compilation of IZVESTIYA correspondents' reports: "Operation 'Banknote' Continues: Questions in the Saving Banks' Lines; Worries of Pensioners and "Shadow Economy" Dealers; The Majority Opinion: Allocated Time Should Be Extended"]

[Text] **From the morning of 24 January the telex machines in the editorial offices were very busy, as usual. The unusual part was that our correspondents' dispatches from virtually all regions of our country revolved around just one topic: The exchange of 50-ruble [R] and R100 bills! This is not surprising: The resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers affects the interests of millions of people.**

The first day of this grandiose financial operation is behind us. What have we learned? What kind of problems are people encountering? What should be done to resolve these problems? These are the topics of the collective reports by IZVESTIYA staff correspondents.

TASHKENT (A. Orlov)—A complicated situation has arisen in Uzbekistan in connection with the withdrawal of R50 and R100 bills from circulation. It is a local tradition to save money for weddings, funerals, and for building a house. The population keeps about R3.5 billion on deposits in savings banks, and about as much money on hand in cash; most often this money is in large denominations. The people are understandably worried; they are bringing their questions and concerns to the local soviets and power organs.

Taking this situation into account, republic President I. Karimov has just signed a decree on implementing the procedures of the all-Union decree on the territory of

Uzbekistan. This document extends the deadline for exchanging large bills until 1 February 1991.

DUSHANBE (A. Karpov)—For employees of Gosbank [State Bank] and the savings banks the morning of 23 January started with tense verbal exchanges with a mass of people who had arrived to exchange money. The suddenness of the presidential decree caused troubled confusion among many Dushanbe residents.

The tension receded by noon. The exchange of large denomination 1961-issue bills is well organized. According to D. Karimov, first deputy chairman of the republic cabinet of ministers, it will probably be necessary to extend the three-day period decreed by the president in order to reach all the population in the mountain areas. This is mostly those who live and work high in the Pamir Mountains, in places that are hard to reach during the winter time.

ASHKHABAD (V. Kuleshov)—The telephone in the IZVESTIYA bureau is ringing off the hook: People are demanding an extension of the deadline for exchanging cash. The amounts of cash held by the Turkmen population—especially in the rural areas—are enormous. Especially at this moment, since the kolkhozes [collective farms] and sovkhozes [state farms] have just received substantial income for over fulfilling the state order for raw cotton in 1990. These hefty profits and bonuses have been distributed among the contract collectives; the residents of rural areas here, however, are in no hurry to put the money into savings banks—they prefer to keep it at home, under the mattress, and most often in large denominations. What to do and how to act in this situation is a complicated question. Not even every city dweller can easily figure out what to do, not to mention shepherds on remote sheep ranges.

"Three days is too short a time period to exchange the money," says republic Deputy Finance Minister K. Kurtgeldyyev. "I cannot speak for other regions, but in the case of Turkmenia—which has its own peculiarities and its own specifics, this is obviously not enough. I cannot argue with the decree—it is a good decree and it is needed—but it can deal a blow not only to smugglers, speculators, and corrupt individuals, but also to those ordinary workers who simply will not be able to accomplish the exchange in such a short time."

YEREVAN (S. Bablumyan)—By noon on 23 January, the USSR Cabinet of Ministers decree had been translated into Armenian and broadcast over the republic radio and television. Commenting on this decree, Armenian Council of Ministers Chairman V. Manukyan stated that decrees of this kind are contrary to the idea of establishing a law-based state, and they undermine people's confidence in the authorities as well as the feasibility of implementing economic programs planned by the state. "Nevertheless," V. Manukyan stressed, "we intend to comply with this decree."

As directed by the decree, special commissions were formed and started work at all enterprises. Additional clarifications in regard to money exchange and the withdrawal of deposits from savings banks are being issued for the population. Nevertheless, the anxiety over the probability of not finishing the process during the specified time period does not subside. The part of the population that is most concerned is the low-income categories.

There are considerable complications with money exchange in the catastrophe zone, where people are compelled to keep large sums of money on hand. Thus a large number of appeals to the republic government, banks, and financial organs to extend the exchange deadline: The specified three days are regarded everywhere as being unrealistic.

TALLINN (L. Levitskiy)—The presidential decree has been discussed at a meeting of the Estonian Government. It was noted that the goal of this reform is to bring the USSR budget and money circulation into order. It is also an attempt on the part of the central authorities to get rid of their indebtedness to the citizens. This will affect low-income families most noticeably. A concern was voiced that money circulation in the republic may be disrupted because of the lack of small denomination bills in the republic branch of the USSR Gosbank and because of the freeze on deposits. A government commission headed by the finance minister has been formed; its task is to ensure the resolution of problems related to money circulation. Prime Minister E. Savisaar is authorized to convey these doubts to V. Pavlov, head of the USSR Government, as well as to ask for an increased ceiling on exchange quotas, especially for pensioners.

OMSK (S. Suslikov)—The local press is publishing facts indicating that the most recent pension payments were made in the denominations that are now subject to withdrawal. Many people see mafia machinations in this.

The situation at Omsk enterprises is stable. The exchange of money started yesterday. The overwhelming number of workers reacted loyally to the presidential decree. The explanation is simple: "Perhaps, some will lose the money that they earned dishonestly."

There are signs of stabilization on the Omsk black market. In any case, during the last 24 hours the price of a R100 bill has risen from R20 to R50. It appears that in shadow economy circles panic gives way to cold calculations.

LENINGRAD (S. Krayukhin)—"The problem with exchanging money for seamen who are now on long voyages is not being resolved," says V.F. Golmren, deputy chief accountant of the Baltic Merchant Marine Fleet. "Financial organs have not provided any clarifications. Hopefully, seamen have some relatives on shore who will be able to resolve these problems, but what about those who do not? We have radioed to the ships with the notice of the ongoing exchange. We are waiting

for replies with lists of crew members who will need such exchange after their return. We will have to find some way out of it."

LVOV (S. Troyan)—On the eve of the presidential decree the main retail enterprises were closed: All cities and towns in the Lvov region were celebrating "Ukrainian Conciliarism Day." So it was even more amazing that by noon of the next day, Wednesday, cash registers in the stores were brimming with soon-to-be-worthless banknotes. There is no mystery in this: Retail personnel and their relatives and friends started exchanging their savings in this not-too-original way. Although large bills were supposed to be "impounded" everywhere by noon, 23 January, the money—these bills—were being brought to the bank without end.

"Of course," said M. Kulchitskiy, chief of the oblast finance department, "they should have given us at least ten days to do the work we are being ordered to do in three. I cannot predict whether the financial personnel will be able to handle the task. If they fail, it is the people who will end up being shortchanged.... The first people to suffer from poor organization will be the feeble ones: Imagine old people trying to push their way through to the savings bank window or the post office, or to withstand the long line in the rayon executive committee commission."

TULA (A. Pushkar)—There are huge lines—mostly of elderly people—at the Tula Main Post Office, at the post offices and savings banks. Pensioner Ya. Kuznetsov explained that on the eve of the decree many received their pensions in R50 bills. Now 80-year-old people have to stand in endless lines. There is also confusion in many lines. Cash kept in offices and at enterprises was supposed to be surrendered to the bank within three hours, according to V. Natarova, head of oblast finance department. Instead, the procedure stretched into the evening. Ya. Kuznetsov, former employee of a rayon financial department who participated in the implementation of earlier monetary reforms, said that the prime minister and the president had acted imprudently in that they had not allowed for a thorough preparation of the current exchange of R50 and R100 notes.

KARAGANDA (O. Stefashin)—The news that large denominations are to be exchanged caused a near panic in the city. Thousands-strong crowds headed for the banks, savings banks, and local soviet buildings. It turned out, however, that their arrival was not prepared for.

It appears that somebody is hyping up emotions deliberately. The housing and communal services department of the Karagandaugol industrial complex, for instance, publicly announced that money will no longer be accepted for exchange starting from noon of 24 January. Savings banks refuse to accept deposits in excess of R500. The stated reason—an anticipated withdrawal from circulation of other currency denominations.

Judging by all signs, tension is growing. Many enterprises and organizations are paralyzed—instead of working, people are busy discussing the presidential and government decrees. Everybody is asking: Who benefits from this "reform?"

By the end of the first day of the money "fever" only a few Karaganda residents had managed to surrender money for exchange, but practically none of them received either "reddies" or "greenies" in return—the distribution of alternate denominations was moved to 24 January.

KUYBYSHEV (S. Zhigalov)—According to local television, second-hand dealers in R50 and R100 bills already are doing business around the savings banks lines. The going price of a R100 bill is R50.

Contradictory cables from the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Ministry of Finance have confused finance officials. For all practical purposes exchange operations did not start until the afternoon of 23 January. Most city residents, finance officials, and soviet officials are skeptical that the stated goal of using the reform to confiscate unearned millions from the shadow economy "octopuses" will be achieved.

So far among the people "netted" by the decree are the gypsies who are known for their propensity to buy "Zhiguli" cars on the black market. Yesterday morning, armed with bags of money, they picketed the Avtozavodskiy Rayon Executive Committee, demanding that money be exchanged. There was also a little old lady who took a place in the line at the savings bank with a milk can full of R50 and R100 notes in her hand.

P. Yelin, deputy chairman of the oblast soviet of people's deputies, said that is was doubtful that the exchange could be accomplished within the specified three-day period.

CHITA (B. Sbitnev)—The news of the withdrawal of large denomination banknotes from circulation reached Chita at about 0300 local time. When banks and savings banks opened, the people stormed them. Armed OMON [special purpose militia detachments] contained the crowds. Bank officials had nobody to call for clarification until 1500 local time: Moscow was still asleep.

To my question about what would happen to hunters who spend half of the winter in the taiga, S. Lapygina, head of the Gosbank currency circulation department, gave this reply: "Most likely they have somebody left at home who will change the money for them." What if they do not?

NALCHIK (A. Kazikhanov)—A. Tkhamonov, deputy manager of the USSR Gosbank Kabardin-Balkaria division, commented on the situation: "We have enough money to accomplish the exchange, but the volume of transactions is so immense that we are physically unable to handle it. Most likely, we will have to work through the nights. The decree does not always take real life into

account. I got a call from a bedridden 77-year-old pensioner. Her daughter is on a trip to Kamchatka, left her with R1200 in large denominations. 'What am I to do,' she asks, 'who will come and take this money to exchange it?' Or there is someone who just yesterday sold the apple crop from his private plot. He also asks: What should I do? People leave work so that they can exchange their savings in time. Who is going to calculate the cost of time lost from work?"

ULYANOVSK (V. Pazboinikov)—I observed this scene in the savings bank where I went to pay rent. A lieutenant-colonel stopped by.

"I serve abroad. Came here for a week to visit a friend. Staying in a hotel. I cannot pay for the room and the food because I only have large denominations bills. What am I to do?"

"Try the military commandant," I suggested hesitantly.

"I already did! No good!"

The withdrawal of large denominations has affected the city's normal pace of life. In most organizations all employees do is discuss the decree. One more little detail: The Ulyanovsk farmer's market is nearly empty. Traders from the south are rushing back home. Airline tickets are traded second-hand at enormous premiums.

KEMEROVO (V. Kostyukovskiy)—The savings banks in the city's central rayon have been closed for several hours now. There are polite notices on their doors: "Because of a shortage of smaller denominations of currency...." V. Andreyev, chief of the USSR Gosbank oblast administration, told me that this was not the main problem, though. A major hurdle is the variety of unforeseen personal situations people bring to the authorities all the time.

The work of the Kemerovo City Executive Committee's commission is well organized. This is where people come to resolve these unforeseen situations: From military officers who just returned from Germany and do not have papers to prove the source of their money, to street traders of fruits and nuts. A mobile cashier's office changes money on the spot for those whose situation is resolved positively.

"We are trying to do our best to comply with the decree in time," says City Executive Committee Chairman V. Mikhaylov. "We cannot be certain, however. There are just too many things the decree and the resolution did not take into account."

SVERDLOVSK (A. Pashkov)—Starting the morning of 23 January, the situation in Sverdlovsk probably resembled the one everywhere else in the country: Babylonian crowds at the banks, savings banks, and post offices.

About 400 pensioners gathered at post office No. 63. The day before many of them had received their pensions, paid out in new, crisp R50 and R100 bills (apparently, the Ministry of Finance had tried to squash the old people's suspicions). First, the people were told that the money would be exchanged at the social security administration. The sick, the crippled, and the invalids set out on a far-from-short trip. Then it came out that the money would be exchanged at the post office after all, except nobody could say when.

This invokes some sad thoughts. So much has been said during the last few years about the humanization of our society, and about attention to each individual person. Especially towards the elderly. Is it possible that nobody realized what would start happening at the post offices with this pension money? Of course, the money will be exchanged. We have been assured of that in all the high offices. Except that it brings pain and bitterness even to watch old people getting crushed in panicky lines.

Various Sectors Interviewed

914A0374A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
24 Jan 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report on a series of interviews by G. Alimov, S. Dvigantsev, F. Ivanov, V. Litovkin, and V. Reshetnikov: "About the Exchange—Our Correspondents Contacted a Number of Ministries, Departments, and Organizations"]

[Text]

S. Ilyichev, deputy chief of the main agency for Aeroflot air routes:

I have had several hundred passengers. Many came to me with large denomination notes to pay for long flights. We were forced to turn passengers away.... Moreover, exceptions cannot be made even for those flying out to seriously ill relatives, or to a funeral. But this is not all—thousands of passengers are canceling flights, wishing to exchange their savings by the date established by the presidential ukase. Aeroflot cannot return the money for the tickets—city ticket offices simply do not have it: Sale does not cover a return! We are trying to explain the situation to the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Leonid Alekseyev, director of the State Badges factory:

I cannot provide any information. Go to the USSR Gosbank [State Bank].

A. Voylukov, deputy chairman of the board of Gosbank:

This action was prepared in strict secrecy. The fight against the mafia and profiteering requires measures exactly like this. Bank notes with a new format were kept in a central safe. Today we will take them to Moscow banks, and tomorrow and day after tomorrow, to other major cities.

While fighting the mafia, we must not infringe upon the rights of ordinary citizens. As declared, for example, by Aeroflot....

I already signed a phoned telegram to Aeroflot and to the MPS [Ministry of Railways], I AUTHORIZE the ticket offices of these departments to accept old format banknotes.

Chief of Shift of Moscow's Central Telegraph Office:

First, about the past 24 hours. After 2100, quite an imposing number of people filled the telegraph premises. They all came, of course, for the sole purpose of exchanging money. Telegraph employees were compelled to deny this, because of a shortage of "small" bank notes. For the same reason, telegrams were not accepted for transmission that were being paid with 50-ruble and 100-ruble bills. Telegraphists had to listen to a storm of insults from literally infuriated people. Glass was broken in one of the windows, and things reached the point of small scuffles in the crowd.

As was reported to the editorial office, 200-300 persons gathered in the public relations center of the Main Administration of Internal Affairs of the Moscow City Soviet Executive Committee and at the Central Telegraph Office after 2100 hours. The militia maintained order. After midnight, the citizens went to their homes. During the night, people got into lines at the city savings banks ahead of time. Militia details moved in at all of the offices. No serious excesses occurred, it was reported at Petrovka-38.

Colonel General V. Babyev, chief of the Central Financial Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Defense:

The USSR presidential ukase and the country's Cabinet of Ministers decree unexpectedly confronted our financial organs and soldiers of the Army and the Navy with a number of difficult problems. I will mention only the most obvious. The fact is that by far not all of the Army is deployed around large cities and population centers where there are savings banks. Rather it is just the opposite. From garrisons stationed in the taiga, the desert, the tundra, the mountains, and on ocean islands, you cannot get to any kind of a bank for three days. It is also necessary to think about the people who are serving in groups of forces and who are located on remote ocean approaches and assignments. There also are the kind of military units and garrisons where Soviet authority simply does not exist in the form of rayon soviets, and in disputed situations there is nobody from the organs mentioned in the decree who can resolve them.

The specific character of military service requires a special decree on this question. We are now going to the USSR Cabinet of Ministers with our own proposals, and we will try to get them approved, so that the legal interests of servicemen and their families are not violated.

L. Lozbenko, first deputy chief of the Main Administration of State Customs Control under the USSR Council of Ministers:

Immediately after receiving the text of the ukase, we sent detailed instructions to customs locations for the purpose of reinforcing customs control procedures on the border. Because in the last several months there has been a sharp increase in the flow of Soviet rubles sent abroad from the country. Now, naturally, we are expecting movement in the opposite direction. These fears are beginning to be justified. We quickly determined the most important directions and sectors of the border through which attempts are possible for the illegal importation into the USSR of large amounts of Soviet bank notes. Without revealing the technical aspect of the matter, I can say: We have special means and methods that make it possible to stop the transport of smuggled currency.

I. Sergeyev, first deputy chief of the Main Administration for Servicing the Diplomatic Corps [GlavUPDK] under the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

Our administration is charged with the organization of the exchange of money of foreign citizens who work in diplomatic, consular, and other missions of foreign states in the USSR. From early in the morning, I get calls from dozens of missions that are trying to clarify exchange procedures. I just received the ambassador of Finland on this subject. For the time being, however, I cannot explain anything to anyone. The problem is that we have not yet received instructions from the USSR Gosbank. The GlavUPDK does not have a banking establishment, and we ourselves cannot exchange money. I hope that Gosbank will correct this oversight in the shortest possible time. Moreover, there is also an inaccuracy in the text of the decree of the USSR Cabinet of Ministers. The fact is that UPDK deals only with accredited missions of foreign states. It is still not clear who will take on money exchange for the others—and there are quite a few!

Auto stores and markets in Moscow reacted instantly to the Ukase

It was virtually impossible to get through to them during the day. Only the single "Automobile Commission Complex" on Leningradskoye Shosse responded to our call. N. Slastnikov, its director, reported: Today, it was as if customers were blown away by the wind. For the time being, everything is calm, but, apparently, there are problems still ahead, for the customers, as a rule, settle up here with large bills.

An incredible situation has set in at the kolkhoz [collective farm] markets: They are practically deserted. As P. Maksyuta, the deputy director of the central market, reported, there is no special hullabaloo here, but the ranks of the merchants have become noticeably thinner. This information was also confirmed in the director's office of the Danilovskiy market. Their market is also

deserted. They explained: What should kolkhozniks [collective farmers] do who brought to Moscow, let us say, tons of apples, but somewhere in Vinnitsa Oblast, 10-20,000 rubles are salted away in a money box for the purchase of a home, an automobile, or for a rainy day? You cannot leave your commodities here, and you are not able to get to your home quickly.

Agricultural

17 Million Tonnes of Grain 'Undersupplied'

LD2501022491 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Jan 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Summary] Viewers are asking what has happened to the grain from last year's harvest and why the country is buying hundreds of thousands of tonnes of grain abroad. It turns out that most farms are holding on to their harvest.

I.I.Kuzmin, deputy head of the Main Food Resources Directorate of the State Commission for Food and Purchases is asked how much has been undersupplied with regard to the state order.

"The collective and state farms have undersupplied 17 million tonnes of grain, whereas we were expecting that we would receive a minimum of 8 million-10 million tonnes over and above the state order. The situation therefore that is now developing, especially with regard to fodder grain, is making us think about how we can supplement the state's resources of fodder grain so that not a single poultry farm nor a single livestock complex comes to a standstill.

"As you are aware, there are areas in Central Asia, the Baltic republics, and the Transcaucasus that do not grow grain. Sovereignty is sovereignty, but when it is a matter of people's stomachs and their health, one cannot act in this way. The Government of Kazakhstan needs to think seriously about this. We issued orders in January for over 1.1 million tonnes of grain to be dispatched from Kazakhstan to other of the country's regions. However, they provided only 500,000 tonnes, and it has sent it where the republic's government desires. Surely we cannot reconcile ourselves to this."

Milk Absent; Bread Supply Erratic in Chita

PM2801151991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Jan 91 Union Edition p 1

[SIBINFORM report in the IZVESTIYA, POSTFACTUM, TASS, REUTER, UPI, INTERFAX, and SIBINFORM roundup: "No Bread or Milk in Chita"]

[Text] There is no milk in the Transbaykal region, there are constant disruptions to the bread supply, and waiting lines begin forming at 6 am. The No. 2 bakery, where the bakery production line is constantly breaking down, is in a state of disrepair. The Chita authorities are not taking radical measures to rectify the bread and milk situation, SIBINFORM reports.

IZVESTIYA Reports Preliminary Harvest Results

PM1501100191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jan 91 Union Edition p 3

[Replies to readers' questions by IZVESTIYA Editorial Office under the rubric "IZVESTIYA Calling"]

[Excerpts] We present for the attention of IZVESTIYA readers yet another selection, compiled exclusively on the basis of your letters and telephone calls. The rubric "IZVESTIYA Calling" has attracted many people's attention. And so, you ask the questions and we supply the answers.

What Sort of Harvest Was Gathered?

The answer of the USSR Council of Ministers State Commission for Food and Purchases: The country's crop farming last year was in a very serious situation particularly in the period of the harvest. And this could not fail to influence the results of the work both on public sector farms and in personal plots. Today it is not yet possible to name the exact figures of the gross harvest. This will be done some time later. But according to preliminary information, around 240 million tonnes of grain was harvested approximately 15 percent more than the average produced in the previous four years. According to an estimate by experts, the losses of grain during the harvest alone were in the order of 15 million tonnes.

The gross harvest of sunflowers is estimated at 6.5 million tonnes. This is eight percent less than in 1989. Because of unfavorable weather conditions, and certain other reasons, the harvest of oil seeds was approximately 0.5 million tonnes less than was grown.

Eleven percent less potatoes and vegetables were grown than in 1989. However, in areas where they are commercially produced, these crops were harvested in a situation that was close to a natural disaster. In addition, debates about whether the countryside should be assisted were prolonged unjustifiably. The right decision was made but it was late. As a result, it is estimated that 66 million tonnes of potatoes were lifted on all categories of farms compared with 72 million tonnes in 1989. According to experts' estimates, crop losses during the harvesting were no less than 20 percent. [passage omitted]

How Many Generals Are There in Our Country?

As the USSR Ministry of Defense Press Center informed us, in 1988-1990 the Ministry of Defense reduced by 30 percent its posts of generals and admirals.

At present there are 1991 generals and admirals on the rolls of the Soviet Army and Navy. [passage omitted]

RSFSR Agrarian Bodies Discuss Joint Tasks

914B0060A Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 11 Jan 91 p 2

[Article by Ye. Petrakov: "Joint Meeting"]

[Text] A joint meeting of the council of the Agrarian Union of Russia and the All-Russian Council of Kolkhozes [collective farms] was held on 9 January in Moscow.

A brief report on the work of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes [state farms] for improving production relations and protecting them under the conditions of the changeover to the market was presented by the chairman of the council of the Agrarian Union, V.A. Starodubtsev. Then the participants in the joint meeting heard several organizers of kolkhoz and sovkhoz production who discussed how intrafarm relations are changing under the new conditions. Speaking at the meeting were the director of the Kommunist Sovkhoz in Budennovskiy Rayon in Stavropol Kray, V.F. Ponomarenko, the chairman of the Kolkhoz imeni Ordzhonikidze in Akushinskiy Rayon in the Dagestan ASSR, M.A. Chartayev, the chairman of Iskra Kolkhoz in Timashevskiy Rayon in Krasnodar Kray, N.M. Kaplenko, the first deputy minister of agriculture and food of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic], A.P. Ustyuzhanik, and others.

It was recommended to the councils of the Agrarian Union and the kolkhoz councils of the republics, krays, and oblasts that they make good use of the new intrafarm relations on the kolkhozes and sovkhozes for intensification of production and in all ways support all forms of management.

Participants in the meeting also discussed questions of construction in rural areas.

Belgorod Farms Complete Seed Preparation

PM2301090591 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 22 Jan 91 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Seed Prepared"]

[Text] Belgorod—Belgorod Oblast's kolkhozes [collective farms] and sovkhozes [state farms] have completed the preparation of grain and pulse crop seed for the coming spring. Virtually all the seed has been brought to first- and second-class condition, preference being given to high-yield regionalized varieties. High-quality seed is ensured by using the mechanized complexes operating at many of the oblast's farms.

Scientific

'Informator-1' Communications Satellite Launched

LD3001111491 Moscow TASS in English 1102 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 30 TASS—The Soviet Union launched a communications satellite, Informator-1, with the Kosmos booster rocket on January 29.

The satellite carries experimental equipment designed to ensure prompt communication and the collection and transmission of information in the interests of the Soviet Ministry of Geology, other branches of the national economy and the further development of amateur radio communication.

The satellite was put into an orbit with the following parameters:
—Initial period of revolution—104.8 minutes
—distance from the earth's surface—1,000 kilometers
—orbit inclination—83 degrees.

The equipment installed in the satellite is operating normally.

The coordinating and computer centre is processing incoming information.

Space Crew's Extravehicular Activity Described

PM3001125791 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Report by P. Orlov; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Cosmonauts Musa Manarov and Viktor Afanasyev have been engaged in extravehicular activity [EVA] for six hours and 20 minutes—almost a full working day.

[Orlov] Our cosmonauts' EVA's are now as regular as episodes of a TV soap opera. On Wednesday they installed and tested the "Strela" cargo crane. And today they used it to transfer and install supports [opora] for the "Mir-Kvant" solar battery and laser reflectors for the new docking procedure. And whereas on Wednesday Musa Manarov was the first to fly on "Strela" today Commander Viktor Afanasyev attached himself to it and accompanied the payload. And Musa was working as the crane operator. And it seems he got in the picture. [indistinct passage comprising cosmonauts' exchanges]

Yes, even in space ports the crane operators' maneuvers are the same as on earth. But, thank God, they are a long way away from being Odessa dockers, both literally and metaphorically. Here is how their closest colleagues—the U.S. shuttle astronauts—worked with their manipulators to catch a faulty satellite. We won't argue about who's better. In both cases the technical work was of an exceptionally high standard. Today mission control is even proposing that the cosmonauts draw up their own work schedules. But this, so to speak, is a matter for

space statisticians and historians. Today, I would like us to remember the striking view of earth from the station—just the way that our cosmonauts, floating above it on a 13-meter carbon-fiber [grafitovyy] needle, have been seeing it.

Mir Cosmonauts Continue Research Projects

LD2901183491 Moscow TASS in English 1815 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Mission Control Centre January 29 TASS—Soviet cosmonauts Viktor Afanasyev and Musa Manarov continue the planned work on board the orbital complex Mir.

Today's research under the flight programme includes the study of X-ray, gamma-ray and neutron radiation sources of extra-terrestrial origin and experiments to determine the effect of open-space factors on structural materials.

The crew will carry out several series of observations and video filming of terrestrial surface to determine the ecological condition of individual regions of the planet.

Under the routine maintenance plan, the cosmonauts are to replace life-sustaining system elements that have exhausted their service length by new ones brought by the Progress M-6 cargo spacecraft.

Military

Transbaykal Personnel Ordered To Back Kravchenko

PM3001144791 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jan 91 p 1

[Report by V. Medvedev under general headline "1 February 1991: Militia and Army Already United; Is It Up to the People?": "In Real Life and ...on the Screen"]

[Text] According to information I received today, A.V. Terentyev, chief of staff of the Transbaykal Military District, has in the last day or so sent a telephoned message to all Transbaykal Military District units, as follows: "With the arrival of Comrade Kravchenko in the post of chairman of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, a change in the coverage of the activity of the USSR Armed Forces has occurred. It has become more objective, truthful, conducive to normal relations between the army and the people, and showing a true picture of the role and significance of the USSR Armed Forces in society.

All unit commanders to send telegrams expressing support for Comrade L.P. Kravchenko.

Address: Kravchenko, USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, Moscow.

To be signed: Officers, warrant officers, and servicemen of the Soviet Army, Transbaykal Military District, specifying military unit number.

Report on execution at 0730 (Chita time)."

The dispatch of telephoned messages began at 0030 via army communications.

Briefing on Street Patrols Held

PM3001114591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jan 91 Second Edition p 2

[Report by A. Chereshnev: "Decree Without Subtext"]

[Text] The recently signed decree of the USSR defense Minister and USSR minister of internal affairs "on the organization of joint patrolling by staffers of the internal affairs organs and servicemen of the Soviet Army and Navy" has become widely known in a few days and has become surrounded with all kinds of rumors and stories. That is borne out also by the numerous appeals to the editorial office with readers asking us to explain what gave rise to the decree and what is to be expected from it. The briefing yesterday in the USSR MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] for Soviet and foreign journalists was devoted to answering these questions.

We were told that the sole aim of the decree is to step up the safeguarding of public order on the cities' streets. It is no secret, it was said at the briefing, that the operational situation today is very complex. And the situation is continuing to deteriorate. For instance, while in 1986 about 120,000 street crimes were recorded, in 1990 their number had increased to 330,000. Given the state of affairs, the safeguarding of public order with the aid of the MVD structures existing at present has become ineffective. Militia staffers are physically incapable of dealing with such a quantity of law violations and crimes.

It is true that last year the number of staffers of the patrol post service throughout the country as a whole was increased by 22,000 men but there have been no substantial changes. Considering the number of cities and the three-shift work system, in reality each day one section can only provide about four posts. In addition today the structures of the voluntary people's militia, that used to provide at least some maintenance of order in public places, has collapsed almost completely. People have begun to be afraid to walk the streets, not only in the evening and at night but also during the day.

All this was the reason for creating this decree. Especially, the briefing noted, as the practice of enlisting servicemen for patrol post service already existed before in many cities.

Perhaps the decree does contain certain shortcomings but we set no tasks other than safeguarding order on the streets, the USSR MVD spokesmen stressed. And no nonexistent political subtext should be sought in it...

Defense Press Center on Media Fabrications

91UM0281A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jan 91 First Edition p 1

[USSR Ministry of Defense Press Center report: "Malicious Fabrications"]

[Text] Concerning the events in Vilnius some elements of the mass media, including the central media, are deliberately spreading false information, and outright distortions and falsification of the facts are being allowed. Moreover, to give the publications and television and radio the appearance of reliability, last names, figures, and other specific data are frequently cited. Thus, one of the new publications (NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, 1 Jan 91) states: "...It has become known that Lieutenant Colonel Tarkhanov appealed to officers and soldiers not to serve aggression. Everyone here is affected by this fact. Up to today 15 servicemen have refused to take part in military operations and have deserted their unit locations."

As the Vilnius garrison command has reported, there is no Lieutenant Colonel Tarkhanov on the personnel rosters. There was not one case of refusal by servicemen to execute assigned tasks. Thus, the aforementioned claims are ill-intentioned fabrications.

Another newspaper (MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, 16 Jan 91) reports on a certain soldier-paratrooper Viktor Shatskiy, who allegedly was "shot by his own." Headquarters Airborne Troops reported that there was no such soldier on the personnel rosters. Also nonexistent is Colonel Vladimir Soldatov, deputy commander of an airborne division, in whose name a report was heard about "unrest" in the division. The claim that paratroopers shot their own comrade is an insolent, cynical, and insulting lie.

The insinuations of a number of publications that tanks allegedly crushed people deserve the same kind of assessment (KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, 15 Jan 91, and MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, 16 Jan 91). This slander, base and loathsome in its provocative essence, evokes the just indignation of Soviet soldiers. Many of them, as is known, are today carrying out difficult tasks in the prevention of fratricidal conflicts and the shedding of blood that frequently involve risk to their lives.

Moldovan Fall 1990 Draft Extended to 1 Feb

91UM0288A Moscow TRUD in Russian 18 Jan 91 p 1

[Article by P. Rashkov: "The Parliament Is Reconsidering Its Position"]

[Text] **The Supreme Soviet of Moldova obliged the government of the republic to extend a draft campaign until 1 February 1991. This was done because the plan of fall draft to the Soviet Army was not fulfilled in Moldova.**

In the same legislature's resolution, it was resolved to temporarily suspend the effect of Points 1 and 2 of the resolution of the Moldova SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet dated 4 September 1990 "On Military Service by Moldova SSR Citizens." These points suspended the effect of a number of articles of the USSR Constitution in the territory of the republic, as well as the effect of USSR Laws "On Comprehensive Duty of Military Service," "On Criminal Penalties for Military Crimes," and a number of articles of the Moldova SSR Constitution and the Criminal Code of the republic. These points established that the citizens of Moldova are not drafted for active military service in the USSR Armed Forces, and military reservists are not subject to being drafted for stints of active-duty training until a special decision is made by the Moldova SSR Supreme Soviet.

Having temporarily suspended the effect of republic laws running counter to the USSR Constitution, the parliament at the same time obliged the government of SSR Moldova to continue negotiations with the USSR Ministry of Defense concerning a number of issues associated with military service by the citizens of Moldova SSR.

Airborne Troops Search for Draft Evaders

91UM0305A Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 12 Jan 91 p 6

[Report by Major General G. Kashuba, chief of the USSR Ministry of Defense Press Center: "Who Are the Paratroops Searching For?"]

[Text]**A few days ago the USSR Ministry of Defense Press Center published a statement on the results of the military draft. As of 1 January 1991, the fall draft targets had been met—in comparison with planned figures—as follows: in Armenia—28.1 percent; Georgia—10.0 percent; Moldova—58.9 percent; Latvia—25.3 percent; Lithuania—12.5 percent; and Estonia—24.5 percent. The draft targets were not met in some oblasts of Ukraine as well. On the whole, only 78.8 of the nationwide draft targets were met. Therefore, as indicated in the statement, to successfully carry out the USSR president's decree of 1 December 1990, the Ministry of Defense is undertaking additional steps in this direction. SELSKAYA ZHIZN editors asked Major General G. Kashuba, chief of the USSR Ministry of Defense Press Center, to comment on this statement.**

I will start by sharing my impressions from my latest trip in the line of duty. In the unit I visited, one of commander's main headaches was how to man the daily duty detail—the patrols, unit duty personnel, the orderlies... The problem—incomplete complement. Quite often the soldiers had to go on duty only 24 hours after finishing the previous shift, because the unit is down to 80 percent of its normal complement. Where are the other 20 percent? That is, specifically those who have been avoiding the draft in the Baltic and Transcaucasian

republics... This means that the soldiers in that unit were serving double duty—for themselves and for those "other guys."

Unfortunately, this social, moral aspect of "underdraft" is not mentioned often. Yes, manpower shortage is a direct threat to the combat readiness of the Armed Forces, and to our country's defense capabilities; it undermines each family's safety. But it is also an injustice towards the soldiers who reported to the enlistment offices after receiving the first draft notice, and now honestly serve their Fatherland.

Another very important aspect of this issue is a legal one. Every country has an inviolable formula: The law is the law. We have the Law on Comprehensive Military Service Obligation. Nevertheless, in defiance of this law and of the USSR Constitution, some Union republics have passed defense-related legislative acts that actually encourage the youth to evade the draft, and those already on duty—to desert. Those who passed these legislative acts are in reality playing with young people's lives.

The presidential decree of 1 December 1990 establishes that legislative acts of this sort are not legal from the moment they are passed, and, therefore, are not to be complied with by state and public organs, enterprises, offices, organizations, and individual citizens. However, the steps necessary to restore law and order are still not being taken in some places. That is why the issue of additional measures had come up.

What measures are these? The military commanders of certain military districts received an order to increase practical assistance to the military commissariats of said republics and oblasts in carrying out tasks related to the military service draft, as well as in organizing the search for those servicemen who take absence without leave, and their return to their place of duty. These tasks will be carried out by the units that are already stationed on the territory of these military districts. Only in Lithuania have several additional paratroop units been brought in. By the way, they are already in Vilnius, and are quartered in Zhirmunai Rayon on the territory of a motorized infantry division.

These are not some kind of punitive, deterrent steps of the type portrayed by some mass media. The first priority is to create normal working conditions for the military commissariats and to prevent unlawful acts against them.

Military servicemen are also being involved in increased educational activities with new draftees and their parents. As a rule, draft evasion is a result of disinformation, or even direct intimidation and instigation. As is known, very often the mere presence of a military unit in a populated area eliminated the antidraft syndrome.

It is true that certain coercion may have to be used regarding malicious "evaders." This, of course, is the task primarily for the law enforcement organs. But what is there left to do if they do not carry out their functions?

...I am thinking again of the encounters during my latest trip. I met some outstanding warriors there who are masters of their profession: company first sergeant, Senior Sergeant V. Shavyrin, drafted from Ostroukhovo village in Ryazan Oblast; subunit commander, Senior Sergeant Viktor Lysak (village Morozovka in Vinnitsa Oblast); and driver, Private Genrikh Grokhovskiy (village Plebantsy in Minsk Oblast). The commanding officers asked me to send heartfelt thanks to these servicemen's parents for bringing up their sons well, and I am happy to do this through this respected newspaper SELSKAYA ZHIZN.

New Legislation on Armed Forces Viewed

LD2901194291 Moscow TASS in English 1820 GMT 29 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS—Draft legislative acts on the development of the defence sector and the functioning of the armed forces soon to be adopted by the Soviet parliament "presuppose deep transformations," Major General Leonid Ivashov, head of the Soviet Defence Ministry's business managing department, told TASS today.

He gave the interview in connection with the fact that defence bills have been referred for discussion to the Soviet parliament commission for defence and state security affairs.

The entire system of legislation on defence matters has been elaborated by the Soviet Defence Ministry's military legislation commission, General Ivashov said.

"New laws on defence, universal military duty and military service and on the status of servicemen are expected to become the main acts of the defence legislation system," Ivashov emphasised.

"The state guarantees appropriate conditions for servicemen to discharge their military duty of defending the USSR, an established procedure for military service and the granting of constitutional rights and freedoms," he added.

The general maintains that military service, for the first time in legal terms, is defined as "a special type of civil service and its priority over other types of working activity is established, with special legal protection of the rights and personal dignity of servicemen provided."

This is why the process of restoring the lost traditions of the Russian officer corps has begun already now, the general believes. Ivashov recalled a saying reflecting the norms of conduct of Russian officers in pre-revolution years: "The officer's life is dedicated to the motherland, the heart is devoted to the lady, but honour should not be sacrificed to anyone."

"These norms are still alive among our officers. Therefore they feel rather keenly the undeserved accusations being levelled at servicemen," General Ivashov said.

Political Chief Addresses Siberian Personnel

PM3001142591 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Jan 91 First Edition p 2

[Report by Lieutenant Colonel V. Chiligin: "Guest of Siberian Servicemen"]

[Text] Colonel General N.I. Shlyaga, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate. has met with Siberian servicemen. He addressed the leading command and political personnel of the Siberian Military District. He talked about the situation in the country and the world and about servicemen's tasks in the new training year. Colonel General N.I. Shlyaga paid a lot of attention to the content and topical problems of modern military policy and the creation of military-political organs and new party structures in the army.

Writings on Komsomolets Disaster Published

PM2901115691 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Jan 91 First Edition p 4

[Book review by Captain 3d Rank I. Ishchenko: "The Komsomolets: Tragedy and Fate"]

[Text] An unusual book has been published in the printing works of the house newspaper of a Northern Fleet nuclear submarine unit: "The Last Voyage of the Komsomolets; Tragedy and Fate." It has been published on a voluntary basis on the instructions of the Council for Perpetuating the Memory of the Crew of the Nuclear Submarine Komsomolets. Published with a print run of 300 copies, and therefore immediately a bibliographical rarity, the book is destined primarily for the relatives of those who perished and those crew members who survived.

The book is priceless both in the literal and possibly in the figurative sense. It collates all the basic material that was published in the central and local press hot on the heels of the tragedy and during the investigation into its circumstances and causes.

The book is also unusual in that its compilers have tried to correct—with the aid of footnotes sometimes taking up half a page or more—errors and inaccuracies made either on purpose or involuntarily by authors of publications, and also of drawing on the testimony of surviving submariners to criticize some of the assertions made by journalists. Consequently everyone who reads the book will receive an objective idea of what happened, insofar as this is possible.

The idea of publishing the book came from the journalist Lieutenant Captain Aleksandr Savvov. Together with editorial office staffer Yelena Artemyeva he also did the basic work of compiling the book. Rear Admiral A. Stepanov also gave a good deal of help and support to the compilers of the collection.

At the moment the second part of the book—"Fate"—is being prepared for publication. The compilers and authors of the second part have invited relatives and acquaintances of the submariners who perished, and especially seamen, to respond and send them documents, material, and reminiscences about those who died.

Baltic Republics

Troops Reportedly Withdrawing From Vilnius

LD3001163791 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Last night was quiet in Lithuania, although there were military patrol posts at Ukmerge Street in Vilnius and near Gariunai. No incidents were reported.

Already yesterday an intensive movement of troops was noticed. Some 30 or 40 trucks with soldiers arrived in Pajustis, Panevezys Rayon, from the east where a military airport is situated. Later these trucks left empty.

This morning two columns left the Northern City [military garrison in Vilnius]. One of the columns consisted of about 15 trucks with soldiers, tanks, and armored vehicles. The other consisted of about 30 trucks, armored vehicles, ambulances, field kitchens, and jeeps. The columns departed in different directions; one went in the direction of Ukmerge and the other in the direction of Lida.

It is thought that in this way for the first time an attempt has been made to withdraw Soviet troops from Lithuania, which in a sense is starting to implement the promise given to the United States by Soviet Foreign Minister A. Bessmertnykh, although he declared that additional troops had been withdrawn from Lithuania.

This information was given to journalists by Audrius Azubalis, representative of the Supreme Council for press and information.

Pugo Cited on Baltic Troop Withdrawal

LD3001185291 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1750 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, January 30 (TANJUG)—Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said today the decrease in Soviet military presence in the Baltics could be a "good sign for negotiations".

BALTFAX, the Baltic news agency, carried his statement and added that troop movements had been noticed in the Baltics but that the character of the movements could not be established "at present".

The withdrawal of police and Army units from the Baltics was announced today by Internal Affairs Minister Boris Pugo.

His statement was confirmed by President Gorbachev's spokesman Vitaliy Ignatenko who said additional forces had either been withdrawn from the Baltics or their withdrawal was drawing to a close.

Lithuanian sources said the withdrawal of additional forces from the Baltics was indirectly linked with promises given to the U.S. Administration by the Soviet leadership.

Ignatenko said the step can not be linked to promises allegedly given by President Gorbachev to U.S. President Bush nor Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh's visit to Washington.

Lithuanian Minister Views Joint Military Patrols

LD3001155591 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in Lithuanian 0930 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Interview with Marijonas Misiukonis, Lithuanian minister of the interior, by Vidas Linkevicius, presenter of the "Crime Chronicle" program; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Misiukonis] [passage omitted] Yesterday I met with the commander of the division of the [USSR] Interior Ministry [MVD] troops, the division which is stationed here in Vilnius.

[Linkevicius] Sorry to interrupt you, minister, did you yourself look for contacts or was it done on their initiative this time?

[Misiukonis] I took the initiative. (?We handed in) the statement by the Lithuanian Supreme Council concerning the expansion of the aggression against Lithuania and the threat of military dictatorship in the Soviet Union. [Words indistinct] we decided to contact the servicemen. Although I had such a wish, I did not manage to meet with the representatives of the military authorities. However, I met with the commander of the MVD division yesterday. We summed up how all of this would be carried out. I was told that first of all patrols will be imposed in Kaunas, Klaipeda, and probably in Sauliai and Panevezys. However, the MVD troop forces will not be everywhere, only where these troops had been stationed.

Their actions will be carried out jointly with (?the militia). It means it will be a joint patrol. The patrol will be armed, and carry automatic weapons [words indistinct]. Concerning the possible actions from their side, these will be as described in their written instructions although perhaps the servicemen have not yet received certain instructions or perhaps they have not yet received a detailed explanation of the [USSR] president's decree.

[Linkevicius] Esteemed minister, what is your prognosis for the first week following 1 February?

[Misiukonis] I really do not know what to forecast. Judging from previous night actions carried by the military, last night was quiet in Vilnius and throughout the republic. Vehicles were stopped by the servicemen at night but (?different elements appeared in their behavior), namely politeness and tactfulness.

[Linkevicius] Esteemed minister, can one learn how to be decent and polite overnight?

[Misiukonis] It looks as though different instructions were given to them. [passage indistinct] They play the

game according to the orders or instructions. [passage omitted] I think that the militia will carry out their routine everyday work. We will maintain our posts in the capital; 150 extra militiamen had been called in to the capital from other branches of the republican MVD. You know, when there is a great number of servicemen and there are no militiamen, this would not be a very good situation because unpleasant things may happen. I told him that we would not patrol together with the servicemen—perhaps we will maintain certain contacts in order to avoid any misunderstandings because most probably [word indistinct] will be detained and taken to the commandant's office. Speaking about the legal grounds I do not think that the servicemen would know about the actions of a patrol service. [words indistinct] I would recommend to people not to run away and to behave calmly. [passage omitted]

Official Says No Patrols Needed in Siauliai

LD2901211791 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in Lithuanian 2000 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] The commander of military units stationed in Siauliai has paid a visit to the municipal council. During the visit, a discussion took place on how the USSR presidential decree will be approached.

According to the military's opinion, psychological tension is currently in decline in Siauliai. Thus, it was pointed out by the military, there is no possibility of organized military patrols being implemented in Siauliai. If the implementation of the decree [words indistinct] were to be carried out. The military noted that they will try to carry this out using their own resources, so that no additional military units will be introduced.

The city leaders were also informed that an international delegation to discuss military cuts is coming to Siauliai in March. The military promised to inform them more accurately about the aims of this delegation next time.

Man Shot by Army Patrol in Lithuania Dies

LD3001204291 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in Lithuanian 2002 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] The Lithuanian Health Ministry has announced that 20-year-old Jonas Tautkus died at 1435 today in the Vilnius First Clinical Hospital from a brain injury. He was shot in early hours of 29 January by Soviet Army patrols.

Vilnius Deputy Says Gorbachev's Days 'Numbered'

LD3001114991 Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 0100 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The events of 13 January gave a clear indication to the people of Lithuania how rapid the return to the past history—not only years old, but several decades old—can be.

R. Ozolas, Lithuanian Supreme Council deputy, thinks that the Soviet Union is moving to presidential rule. However, according to the deputy, it is highly likely that Gorbachev's presidential rule would be replaced by the military dictatorship.

[Begin Ozolas recording] You see, the point is that at the moment Gorbachev is competing with the Armed Forces to see which will come out on top. The Armed Forces are dashing forward very resolutely. Their interests are clearly divided; it is evident that Gorbachev does not come up to the military's expectations. What has been announced as the presidential decree on reinforcing the rights of the KGB to enter premises and search them—the widening of the rights of the militia—is an attempt to take over military functions by civilian means.

However, as you can see, the agreement between Yazov and Pugo forestalls this far more effectively and the inclusion of control through special means reaches much farther than the measures envisaged by Gorbachev, unless Gorbachev achieves more than a military junta, through taking over the finances.

One way or another everything that is taking place at the moment is clearly proceeding toward totalitarianism, to total control. It is not clear who is going to win. In my understanding, the military has a greater chance. I think that Gorbachev's days are clearly numbered, and even if the military dictatorship is not imposed, his resignation is unavoidable, as his policy has turned out to be ineffective. He did not implement the most important issue to be raised by his politicians: he did not provide a possiblity for the nations' free self-determination, in the broadest interpretation of the concept of self-determination. He has therefore eliminated his own program, and in a case like that politicians have to resign. [end recording]

Lithuania Not To Hold Union Referendum

LD3001182191 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Here is another report provided by the INFORMATION NEWS AGENCY [IAN] from Vilnius. Republic citizens, or people who have a right to obtain Lithuanian citizenship, as well servicemen of the Soviet Army who arrived here before 4 November 1989, the date when the legislature adopted the Law on Citizenship, will be able to take part in a poll planned for 9 February in which the population's attitude toward Lithuania's future will be expressed.

There is only one question being asked: What is your attitude to the first article of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania? Its participants will have to answer whether they support or oppose the state of Lithuania becoming an independent democratic republic. The Lithuanian leadership decided not to hold the all-Union referendum on the future of the Soviet Federation planned for 17 March.

Political Groups Issue Appeal on Lithuanian Poll

LD3001132891 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Appeal by Lithuanian political parties and organizations read by V. Cepaitis, deputy of Lithuanian Supreme Council; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Two days ago a meeting of representatives of Lithuanian political parties, public organizations, and unions took place in Vilnius. A decision was made at the meeting that joint efforts should be applied in preparation for the upcoming nationwide poll.

Practically the entire spectrum of political forces in Lithuania were represented at the meeting. [passage omitted]

An appeal was adopted which I would like to read:

Appeal of representatives of Lithuanian political and public organizations concerning the nationwide poll. [passage omitted] It is impossible to force us to renounce freedom, to break up our unity and our peaceful determination to proceed with setting up a democratic state. [passage omitted] The state of Lithuania continues to exist despite attempts to crush it by coercion and blood, and to declare that Lithuania was part of another state.

The time has come, despite pressure from the occupational and military force, for us to declare the opinion of Lithuania concerning our future legal basis once again, like we did in the elections to the Supreme Council.

On 9 February a nationwide poll will take place: Do we approve that Lithuania should be a sovereign democratic republic? [passage omitted] We invite all political forces and parties to come out for an independent Lithuania.

Signed: V. Cepaitis, the Independent Party; Peciliunas, Democratic Party; Ignataviciene, Lithuanian Greens Party; Sakalinas, Union of Lithuanian Workers; Vizonas, the Tautininkai Union [National Union]; [words indistinct]; Garska, Vilnija Society; Tumelis, Lithuanian Sajudis; Jakas, Unemployed People's Council; Saltenis, the Social Democratic Party; Kirkilas, Lithuanian Democratic Party; Matulevicius, Association of Lithuanian Industrialists; Koncys, bishop; M. Valancius, Movement for Sober Way of Life; Kancleris, Union of Lithuanian Land Owners; Suliauskaite, Vilnius branch of Caritas organization; Klumbys, Lithuanian Christian Democratic Party; Gajauskas, Union of Lithuanian Political Prisoners and Deportees; Veliukonis, Union of Lithuanian Farmers; Vilkas, Lithuanian League of Liberty. [passage omitted]

Servicemen Respond to Article on 'Russian Army'

PM3001123991 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Jan 91 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report under the rubric "Direct Line": "What Did the Lieutenants Say?"]

[Text] Vilnius—MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI No. 4 carried the report "Who Did the Killing?" by Yu. Teplyakov, the newspaper's special correspondent. It begins as follows: "I came to Vilnius to listen to those who are accused by the whole world. To hear and report with the utmost accuracy the words of the soldiers who drove tanks out into the streets."

And here is how the report conveys the author's conversation with three lieutenants:

"'Did you hear Boris Yeltsin's appeal?'

"'Back there, by the tower. We were standing there almost 72 hours. But how can you not carry out an order! Certain jail. As for his intentions to create a Russian army, this is possible, of course. If a law is passed, we will go and serve.'

"'But your commanding officer told me that a Russian army is inconceivable, that it can only be an army of Russian nationalists.'

"The guys started to feel embarrassed, and I could sense their disagreement, but at that moment the regiment commander looked into the room and they remained silent."

After MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI appeared, our correspondent—Captain Second Rank V. Gromak—was sought out by those same tankmen, the "heroes" of the report. And here is what they said:

Lieutenant Colonel N. Astakhov, regiment commander:

"The correspondent asked various questions about the events of 13 January. In order to provide evidence, I suggested that he take a look at what the so-called peaceful residents were armed with. He refused. He also refused to take a look at the conditions under which the families of my subordinates have been forced to live through the fault of the Lithuanian Government. Nine families live in the staff building alone, where we were conversing. I got the impression that Teplyakov had some different purpose. He also started speaking of Yeltsin. I frankly said that Yeltsin is an adventurer and that we expect nothing good from him.

"'Are you Russian?' Teplyakov asked me. 'Yes, Russian,' I replied.

"'Will you go to serve in the Russian army that is to be set up?' 'No. Against whom is a Russian army to fight?' And I told him in all responsibility that no one in our officer collective will serve in a Russian army. And I suggested that he talk with any of the officers. The journalist selected three lieutenants and asked me to leave...."

Lt. A. Urban:

"He spent some 15 minutes talking with us. At first we spoke of the 13 January events. We told him how it had been. When we cited specific examples, the journalist

hurried us on: Okay, Okay. And it became clear that he was interested in something else. It turned out to be this question: Do we want to serve in a Russian army? I personally gave a negative reply and explained why."

Lt. A. Kim:

"The journalist did not ask me a question about the Russian army. He had evidently seen that I am Korean, and everything became clear. And Lt. N. Sakara answered like this: 'I am Ukrainian, so what has a Russian army to do with me? I serve in the Soviet Army and will continue to do so....'"

Lithuanian Issues Law on National Languages

LD3001202191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1839 GMT 30 Jan 91

[by TASS correspondent Kazis Ustsila]

[Text] Vilnius, 30 Jan (TASS)—The Lithuanian Supreme Soviet today published the law "On the Introduction of Amendments to the Law of the Lithuanian Republic 'On National Minorities'." It extends the rights of some inhabitants of Lithuania to use their native language. As this document says: "In local institutions and organizations of administrative-territorial units in which there is a dense population of somme national minority, the language of that national minority will be used alongside the state language." So far the dissatisfaction of non-native inhabitants living in the republic, first and foremost of local Poles, has been felt in Lithuania in connection with the fact that the new legislaton, while extending the rights and the zone of application of the state language—Lithuanian—was at the same time restricting the use of the languages of national minorities. The new amendments must remove the cause of the outbreak of a certain amount of tension and contradictions on this basis.

Moreover, the legislature has adopted a decision in which it has been made incumbent on a number of the legislature's standing commissions, and also on the state commission for the study of the problems of East Lithuania, to prepare before 31 May of this year a draft status of the Vilnius region which is populated mainly by Poles, and also before 1 May of this year, to prepare a long-term program for the provision of higher education to the non-native population living in Lithuania, with a view to starting its implementation already this year, in 1991.

Riga Presidium Says Patrols 'Unconstitutional'

LD3001124291 Riga Domestic Service in Russian 1205 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] At an emergency session of the Soviet of People's Deputies Presidium of the central rayon of Riga there was discussion of the order by the minister of defense and the minister of internal affairs on joint patrolling of streets by representatives of the militia and army. The Presidium sent an official letter to the USSR Supreme Soviet, the USSR president, and the procurator general of the USSR noting that the order is unconstitutional and such joint patrolling may lead to still greater destabilization of the political situation in Latvia.

Guards Arrested, Taken From Riga KGB Premises

LD3001194891 Riga Domestic Service in Russian 1849 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Alarming news has been received that the five volunteer guards who were arrested on 20 January are no longer on the premises of the republic's KGB. Our correspondent Ingrida Abolas phoned Nikolay Aleksandrov, chief of the investigation department of the Latvian Procuracy. He confirmed that the five arrested were indeed taken away from the KGB premises last night; but he did not respond to the question of where they had been taken.

Ingrida Abolas also phoned Azobs Ansals, deputy procurator general of the Republic of Latvia, who said that he did not know where the men are, although there have been attempts to clarify this.

Yesterday evening, at the demand of 27 deputies of the Latvian Supreme Council, Anatolijs Gorbunovs sent a telegram of protest on behalf of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia to USSR Procurator General Trubin.

Latvian People's Front Rejects Joint Patrols

LD3001164191 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 1500 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] To begin the broadcast, we will acquaint you with the resolution of the People's Front of Latvia board on the joint patrols by the militia and Army subunits.

The resolution states:

In connection with the joint order by Yazov and Pugo on joint patrols by militia and Army subunits, the People's Front of Latvia board considers that:

First, organizing such patrols is a crude interference in the internal affairs of our sovereign state.

Second, this act of power restricts human rights and opens opportunities for fully arbitrary acts by the Army, the State Security Committee, and the militia.

Third, the participation by the Army in patrolling the streets of a town is dangerous, as it was not envisaged for such protection of public order. Precisely this may cause unforeseen consequences under circumstances in which the USSR president has already on several occasions been incapable of controlling the action of his Army.

Four, with this order a state of emergency is actually being introduced—states the resolution.

The People's Front of Latvia board demands that the Supreme Council and the Council of Ministers of the

Republic of Latvia submit without delay a protest to the USSR President and not accept the fulfillment of this order in the Republic of Latvia.

The board calls on the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia, in conformity with Article Four of the International Pact on Citizens' and Political Rights, to inform the UN Secretary General about the attempt by the USSR leadership to introduce a state of emergency and to request sending to Latvia international observers from the United Nations, the European Parliament, and other international organizations.

We have relayed the statement by the People's Front of Latvia board.

Riga Militia Voice No Confidence in MVD Minister

PM3001123591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jan 91 Second Edition p 2

[Report by correspondent O. Meshkov: "Riga Militia: No Confidence in Minister"]

[Text] Riga—A meeting of representatives of Riga militia subunits took place on the day that the victims of the 20 January tragedy were buried.

It is no coincidence that I have compared these two events since one of the points of the resolution adopted at the meeting said: "That no confidence be voiced in the republic's internal affairs minister A. Vaznis due to his inability to competently control MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] forces and means in particularly complex conditions, which was one of the reasons for the tragic events of 16 and 20 January 1990." Moreover, almost all of the 589 militia staffers in the hall voted "for" and only one abstained.

The concern and dissatisfaction with the situation that has taken shape on the part of the people who participated in the meeting and those who sent them have been generated by what MVD staffers see as serious miscalculations and deliberate breaches of legality. What in particular is at issue? For instance, no steps have been taken to disband and disarm nonconstitutional and alternative formations for "guarding order," and so-called "self-defense detachments" have been set up within the framework of the Latvian MVD for which existing legislation makes no provision—they are hastily equipping themselves with weapons and equipment. The Latvian MVD leadership is directing personnel to execute republic laws alone, most of which contravene the USSR Constitution, Soviet legislation, and the USSR president's decrees. The meeting participants said that they see this as a manifestation of the profound political crisis that has developed in the republic and the Latvian MVD leadership's inability to influence the state of affairs.

The adopted resolution makes a number of demands on the republic's government and the ministry's leadership, whose fulfillment would help stabilize the situation and finally organize an effective fight against the activity of the criminal world which has increased over the last few days. The meeting participants sent an open letter to B. Pugo, USSR internal affairs minister, and to USSR Prosecutor General N. Trubin.

Communists Said Trying To Splinter Latvian Power

LD3001165391 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 1400 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Excerpts] As we promised, listen to some excerpts from this morning's news conference at the Council of Ministers. You will hear a part of what was said by Ilmars Bisers, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; Interior Minister Aloizs Vaznis; and Talavs Jundzis, chairman of the Supreme Council's Commission for Defense and Internal Affairs.

[Begin recording] [Bisers] Our meeting is a continuation of yesterday's meeting at the large hall of the university, where the republics' leadership met the workers of internal affairs establishments. Our Ministry of Interior has not remained outside the political struggle that has developed in the republic between the Communist Party and the official organs of power, in which the majority belong to the supporters of the People's Front and the organizations close to it.

The positions of the Communist Party at the internal affairs establishments, despite their official depoliticization and ridding of party presence, have remained strong. This is understandable, because for many years only Communist Party members could make a career in these establishments. At this moment, the Communist Party, which launched an attack against the official organs of power along all possible lines, has decided to make use of its positions in the internal affairs organs in an attempt to split them. It appears to me that during yesterday's meeting the republic's leadership succeeded in dispelling disinformation, clarifying some unclear questions, and in this way improved the situation in the internal affairs organs. [passage omitted]

[Vaznis] I think that in this situation a greater manliness is needed to remain in the position than to resign. I am not connected by any mercantile interests with this position, but I feel responsible to the legislature, the government, and the people. Therefore, such a question must be tackled by the legislature alone.

[Jundzis] As I have already said, I feel that in this instance it was an attempt by the Communist Party to splinter the power existing here in the republic. If it is not possible to achieve the resignation of the entire government, then at least achieve the resignation of an individual minister where the Communist positions are stronger.

The objections that were raised against the minister during the meeting cannot be regarded as especially well-founded in essence. No serious facts were mentioned. More rumors and guesses were mentioned, but

no specific facts. The position of the minister of interior is not, after all, the position of a collective farm chairman, who is elected at a ballot by the collective. [passage omitted]

[Vaznis] The question on joint patrols is nothing new. We have practiced joint patrolling with Army units for years, and such a practice has developed in towns where there are strong and big garrisons of the Soviet Army. Thus, for example, in the city of Liepaja, joint patrolling has been in existence for decades. In the city of Riga, from time to time, joint patrols take place. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rubiks Calls for Public Accord Committee

LD3001131391 Riga Domestic Service in Russian 1013 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] According to the newspaper SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA, Alfred Rubiks, the head of the Latvian Communists, has announced the possible creation of some kind of commission of public accord which, he says, should be ratified by the USSR president. In the opinion of the Latvian Communist Party leader, the possible new structure will stand above the legislature and above the government, and will deal in particular with lifting all the laws adopted in the republic which do not conform to the Constitution of the USSR and Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic.

'Legislative Crisis' Continues in Latvia

LD3001235191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1639 GMT 30 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Excerpts] Riga, 30 Jan—The legislative crisis continues in Latvia—the two factions have been holding separate sittings for the third week. An attempt to set up a conciliatory commission has not yet succeeded.

The opposition sent two of its representatives to the Supreme Soviet hall yesterday, having made it incumbent upon them to nominate candidates to join this commission. However, the faction of the People's Front refused to discuss this issue in the absence of the whole Equality faction and deleted it from the agenda. For the same reasons a draft law on social and political organizations and parties have not been discussed today. [passage omitted]

Anatolijs Gorbunovs, leader of the Latvian legislature, stated that he sees no reason to prevent Equality's return—some conditions submitted by the faction have been fully satisfied, some of them have been partially met. Deputies who left the session hall have a different opinion. They still insist that a joint communique issued by the Supreme Soviet and citizens' congress, which makes it compulsory for the two sides to cooperate and coordinate their actions, should be abolished. The opposition believes that such an alliance with a radical movement that says it is illegal for "foreigners" to stay in Latvia, meaning those who came here after 16 June 1940—the date when Latvia joined the USSR—is absolutely unacceptable. [passage omitted]

Jurkans Says West Invests 'Too Much' in Gorbachev

LD2901140691 Hamburg DPA in German 1249 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] In Bonn the foreign ministers from Riga, Vilnius, and Tallinn have been drumming up government help against the presidential regime of Mikhail Gorbachev and for independent democracy in the three Baltic republics. The West has been investing too much in Gorbachev, Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans said at a news conference on Tuesday. He appealed to the federal government to stop giving aid to the Soviet government, but to continue giving aid to the people. The foreign ministers of Lithuania and Estonia are also in the federal republic, as is Kazimiera Prunskiene, the former Lithuanian head of government.

Jurkans, who was received on Monday by Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and who has conferred with all the leading party representatives, warned against seeing bloodshed in the Baltics as a purely local event. The intention is to smash democracy and prepare the return of dictatorship to Europe, he asserted.

Former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze—"an honest man"—warned him of this development last October and added that he himself was being put under pressure by the KGB. Jurkans said that on a basis of equality he had no objections to the plans of Boris Yelstin, Gorbachev opponent and president of the Russian Republic, who intends to conclude treaties with the Baltic states.

Ministers Discuss Baltics

AU2901141391 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 29 Jan 91 pp 1-2

[Report by "C.G.": "The Lithuanian and Latvian Foreign Ministers in Bonn"]

[Text] Latvian Foreign Minister Jurkans met in Bonn on Monday [28 January] with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, FDP [Free Democratic Party] Chairman Otto Graf Lambsdorff, SPD [Social Democratic Party of Germany] Honorary Chairman Willy Brandt, SPD Chairman Hans-Jochen Vogel, and CDU/CSU [Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union] Bundestag floor leader Alfred Dregger for talks on the threatening situation in the Baltics. Earlier, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Saudargas held talks with Genscher. In the talks they agreed that the Gulf war should not lead to events in the Baltics not being given enough attention. Jurkans said that the success or failure of the Baltic republics' efforts for independence and democracy would have serious repercussions on other

Soviet republics and on the Soviet leadership's attitude. Therefore, the use of force by the Soviet armed forces in Vilnius and Riga could not be viewed as isolated cases, Jurkans said. He added that much rather, it showed that there was a comprehensive plan of the Soviet central authority to return to the former repressive conditions.

The Bonn partners in the talks condemned the use of force by the Soviet Armed Forces in the Baltics. They paid tribute to the readiness demonstrated by the democratically elected governments in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia to achieve independence by peaceful means in agreement with the Soviet leadership. They said that the European Community was trying to make clear to the Soviet leadership the consequence of the events in Vilnius and Riga. They said that Germany wants to have good-neighborly relations with the Soviet Union. Intimidation and violence in the Baltics, however, cannot be tolerated. They said that the Federal Republic would support every measure that helped the Baltic republics to gain independence by peaceful means.

Lambsdorff recommended that the foundations of the German political parties should become active in the Baltic capitals. He said that it was increasingly hard to believe that Mikhail Gorbachev knew nothing about the human rights violations; Germany, however, had an interest in the Two-Plus-Four Treaty being ratified by the Supreme Soviet without any problem. The world wanted the international community to maintain its unanimous position on the Iraqi aggressor, and "it wants the Soviet Union to keep together so that it is impossible for six or eight separate states, each in control of nuclear weapons, to be created," Lambsdorff said.

CDU/CSU Bundestag floor leader Alfred Dregger said: "The Baltics represent a test for the European peace order to which the Soviet leadership under President Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze has made a substantial contribution." He said that the conflict between the aspirations of the Baltic peoples to regulate their relations with the USSR on the basis of the right of self-determination, and the will of the central authority to maintain the cohesion of the Soviet Union, must be resolved according to the principles of the "Charter of Paris" of the CSCE meeting in November last year.

Dregger said that the decisions of freely elected parliaments must be respected. He added that the right of self-determination included the right of a country to decide freely whether or not it wants to be a member of a federation. He said that the cohesion of the Soviet Union could "not be preserved" by tanks; it could only "be destroyed."

The Greens' federal main committee condemned the use of force by the Soviet central power in the Baltic republics. It said that the Soviet leadership should guarantee human rights for all citizens. The Greens committee said that the "tactical standstill agreement" of U.S. President George Bush with Mikhail Gorbachev, which promotes Moscow's military intervention in the Baltics in the shadow of the Gulf war, must be rejected.

Jurkans Meets Austria's Mock

LD3001211591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1430 GMT 30 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov]

[Text] Vienna, 30 Jan (TASS)—Janis Jurkans, the Latvian foreign minister, who arrived in Vienna today from Bonn, had a conversation with Alois Mock, the Austrian foreign minister.

According to the APA news agency, the Latvian representative during his meeting spoke of the "tragedy of the Baltic peoples," who, according to him, are receiving too little assistance from either the Soviet Union or the West. The aim of his present mission is first and foremost to "achieve undersanding on the part of the Western democracies."

A. Mock spoke of support for the Baltic republics and promised to foster the development of relations between them and the federal lands of the Alpine Republic. As for diplomatic relations, the Government of Austria "maintains them with Moscow," he emphasized.

Prunskiene Meets FRG Politicians in Bonn

LD3001220991 Moscow TASS in English 2145 GMT 30 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Mikhail Stepovik]

[Text] Bonn January 31 TASS—The development of the situation in the Baltic republics was discussed here on Wednesday during a meeting between SPD [Social Democratic Party of Germany] Chairman Hans-Jochen Vogel and former Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene.

They discussed the use of force in the Baltic republics by the Soviet Army, Sepp Binder, press spokesman for the SPD group in the Bundestag, told TASS.

Vogel and Prunskiene agreed that the crisis in the region can be settled only peacefully. With this end in view talks between the Lithuanian leadership and central authorities should be resumed.

SPD deputies to the Bundestag Guernoth Erhler and Dietrich Sperling left for Moscow today, Binder said. On a commission of the party leadership, they will hold talks with representatives of the Soviet leadership and political parties.

The crisis of the policy of reforms and the situation in the Baltic republics will be the principal subject of the talks. The Bundestag deputies also intend to visit Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania.

Latvian Deputies Comment on Citizenship Issue

PM2901140191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by Irina Litvinova under the "Direct Line" rubric: "You Cannot Be a Citizen..."]

[Text] Riga—Statements by Russian leaders that the treaty recently signed between the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] and the Latvian Republic will guarantee the rights of the Russian-speaking population and above all their acquisition of citizenship are being widely commented upon in Latvia.

T. Zhdanok, deputy of the Equal Rights faction in the Latvian Supreme Soviet:

"The wording of the treaty concerning citizenship is so vague that it fully embraces the People's Front concepts on the granting of citizenship to various categories of inhabitants in stages over five years. Selection is stipulated not just in terms of length of residence but also political convictions, and there are qualifications of a different kind. The treaty provides no guarantee whatsover that all permanent residents will obtain citizenship within a short period without restrictions."

Deputy K. Lijepens, member of the People's Front faction in the Supreme Soviet, expressed his viewpoint in the government newspaper DIENA: The treaty guarantees not citizenship, but the right to obtain it, which is determined by the procedure laid down by the legislation of each state. Such a norm will only enhance Latvia's international standing and help restore its independence.

People's Front deputies have been forced to provide explanations regarding the treaty in connection with the protest by national radical organizations: Why is citizenship guaranteed to those to whom they do not intend to grant it? But, as we can see, the People's Front representative has issued reassurance: The legislature will decide in the future who will be granted citizenship and who will not.

Latvian Trawler Detained in Senegalese Waters

LD2801135991 Moscow TASS in English 1345 GMT 28 Jan 91

[By LETA-TASS Correspondent David Gefter]

[Text] Riga January 28 TASS—The Latvian Nikifor Pavlov trawler was detained on Sunday evening by a Senegalese military ship in the South Atlantic.

The trawler, assigned to the Riga base of trawlers and refrigerators, had a crew of 80. The trawler's Captain Igor Shinkevich radioed to Riga that "the trawler was fishing in the Mauritanian zone of the Atlantic authorised by local authorities. On January 27 at 23.30 Moscow time, a Senegalese military ship approached the trawler and threatening us with weapons demanded that we follow it. My official protests were ignored".

The trawler is being escorted to Dakar.

Estonia's Savisaar Reviews Yazov Message on Draft

PM3101105991 Tallinn SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA in Russian 18 Jan 91 p 3

[ETA report by V. Khyuva: "Marshal Yazov Agrees With Commission's Decisions"]

[Text] A cable from USSR Defense Minister D. Yazov arrived in Tallinn 16 January. E. Savisaar, chairman of the Estonian Republic Government, commented on it for Estonian radio and ETA:

"Minister of Defense Yazov reported that he agrees with the proposals of the group of G. Krivosheyev, deputy chief of the General Staff. As is known, the proposals say that young people who have quit the Army and are hiding in the forest will get the opportunity of finishing their service in Estonia. And from now on young people from Estonia will always be allowed to serve in their native republic after undergoing, if the need arises, training in Latvia.

"These proposals," E. Savisaar added, "now have to be publicly discussed with parties and movements, and also with regional elders and city mayors. Before the final decision is made the Supreme Soviet should also consider the question."

The government chairman reported that Estonia is not planning to form its own airborne forces immediately, as might appear from the request for former paratroopers to gather that was broadcast over the radio 16 January.

"The idea is to meet with those who have served in airborne forces. If such units are formed in Estonia sometime, these people's experience will be needed," E. Savisaar said.

Concerning the 16 January sitting of the government's operations staff, the government chairman confirmed that for the time being Estonia's most important vital facilities are not disposed to go on strike, although strikes cannot be ruled out when inciters and provocateurs are present.

Sweden To Assist Estonia in Law Examination

LD2901102991 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 29 Jan 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] Sweden has said that it is ready to act as a mediator between Estonia and the United Nations in organizing expert legal examination of the laws adopted in Estonia since 1989.

Defector Predicts Increased KGB Role in Baltics

LD3001191691 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1700 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] The Soviet security police, KGB, is taking an increasingly important place in the circle surrounding Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. This is also noticeable in the Baltic Union republics, where several of the KGB chiefs have now spoken out in public. This may mean that the KGB is preparing for a more active role in the Baltics, says a KGB agent who has defected and is hiding in Sweden.

[Reporter] The KGB is the Soviet leadership's most extreme weapon against internal unrest and disintegration. While Army troops in the past year have been guilty of refusing to obey orders and of desertion, and Interior Ministry troops have shown evidence of ethnic and political differences, as was the case in Latvia, where Russian Interior Ministry troops stormed and shot their Latvian colleagues, the KGB has been observed to limit itself to one or more threatening statements by the KGB chief in Moscow.

But now the local KGB chiefs are also beginning to speak out. The latest threatening statement came in the [Swedish Radio] "Morning Echo" program, in which the Latvian deputy head of the KGB, (Janis Rubins), warned the Latvians against continued trends toward disintegration, and in more veiled terms also warned Sweden against one-sidedly supporting the Baltics.

One can infer from this that the KGB has already been given, or has taken, a more active role in the fight against the republics' democratization and liberation. This is stated by (Vladimir Grigoryev), a KGB defector with 12 years experience of the organization, six of them in the Baltics.

[Begin (Grigoryev) recording in English] The KGB in the Baltic states simply decided to give their explanations for the present situation in Baltics. And they want to prove that all problems are created simply by local nationalist forces, because that is the general line of all Soviet [translation fades]. [end recording]

[Reporter] The KGB now wants to give its version of what is happening in the Baltics, says (Vladimir Grigoryev). They want to blame the Balts and their struggle for freedom for the violence which is taking place and, not least, which may take place in the future. This may lead to us seeing more open KGB activity in the Baltics. Until now the actions of the Soviet leadership, as they have appeared to the outside, have been carried out by Interior Ministry troops and paratroopers. The KGB has been operating more discreetly.

According to Western calculations, the KGB has at its disposal over 400,000 civilian employees. In addition, there are 220,000 people in the KGB Border Guards and 150,000 people in different elite units. That is a total of 770,000, which makes the KGB even more numerous than the notorious Interior Ministry troops, who are estimated to number 700,000. Thus there is a total of almost 1.5 million politically motivated security troops with elite training at the direct disposal of the Soviet leadership, apart from the massive but increasingly less reliable Red Army.

RSFSR

Kobets Named Defense Committee Chairman

LD3101095691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0840 GMT 31 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 31 Jan (TASS)—This morning the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet Presidium approved Colonel General Konstantin Kobets' appointment as chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers State Committee for Defense and Security.

Gen. Kobets, 51, is a USSR Armed Forces Chief of General Staff deputy and head of signals. He is chairman of the USSR Armed Forces and KGB parliamentary deputies' group and an RSFSR people's deputy.

"In earlier conversations USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev assured me that he would never issue an order for the Army to be used against the population to resolve interethnic and domestic conflicts," Konstantin Kobets emphasized in a conversation with your TASS correspondent. He said that he has met twice with Boris Yeltsin in recent days. "We discussed issues such as the formation of an army, the position of servicemen and social protection for them," he said. According to Kobets, he and Yeltsin agreed that "there is no need for a Russian army as a means of defending sovereignty and the state or as an extension of policies."

Gen. Kobets said that Yeltsin nonetheless stressed that he is prepared to raise the issue "of additional Russian investment in army social spheres, preparing young people for service, and financial support for families which send their sons off to the Army or Navy."

Speaking about his vision of the future for USSR's defense structures, Gen. Kobets advocated maintaining unified armed forces for the whole Union and centralized management. "The objective need for this approach is dictated by historical, economic, political, and purely military factors," he emphasized.

"On the political level, unified armed forces act as a guarantee for the sovereignty and security of each of the republics and for the preservation of the USSR's role as a great world power, as well as being a very important factor in international political stability," concluded Gen. Konstantin Kobets.

RSFSR Supreme Soviet 30 Jan Session

LD3001203691

[Editorial Report] Moscow Central Television Second Program Network in Russian at 1845 GMT on 30 January begins carrying a recorded report on the 30 January session of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, RSFSR, Supreme Soviet at the Kremlin in Moscow. Reception is good.

At 1845 GMT, the joint session of the two RSFSR chambers opens with Abdulatipov, chairman of the RSFSR Soviet of Nationalities addressing the issue of the Federal Treaty. Work on it has been based on consideration of historical realities. Some said only autonomous entities should be subjects of the federation, others that it should be a federation of republics. There is no need to cover everything in the treaty. That is what the Constitution is for. Certain powers will be delegated to the republics, krays, and oblasts, and then their laws will apply. Otherwise, Federal laws will apply. Development of relations must proceed in a nonviolent way, and the treaty must reflect this.

At 1858 GMT, Abdulatipov answers deputies' questions. Unnamed deputy prompts answer about forms of national self-determination.

Deputy Baburin asks whether not signing the Federal treaty means secession. Abdulatipov says that we shouldn't hype up the desire of republics to secede.

At 1903 GMT, the Soviet of the Republic continues in separate session Chairman says that work on the Federation treaty will be continued.

Deputy Zakharov then talks about pensions and answers questions.

Next, the chairman of the board for the Pension Fund is elected—Kurtin, along with whole board.

At 1915 GMT, the chairman proposes draft decision on political situation in Russia. It is adopted "as a basis." This is followed by detailed comments from the floor. Deputies Gurov, Konstantinov, Yeremin, Belashev, Kovalev, and Khurayev make suggestions about specific paragraphs and lines. It is adopted "as a whole."

At 1929 GMT, the announcer sums up the proceedings in the Soviet of Nationalities. Abdulatipov is shown chairing discussion of draft decisions on political situation and Baltic situation. Deputies make numerous specific suggestions. A deputy in military uniform says that deputies should not give in to various sorts of insinuations.

At 1950 GMT, Abdulatipov sums up the debate. It should not be seen as an expression of no confidence in the chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet.

There is then an interview with Volkogonov, who says that the inability to adopt the documents is an expression of the split in the country at large. Confrontation has come to the fore, and the desire for constructive cooperation has been pushed into the background. Everyone is agreed that military force must not be used to settle differences. Russia must make a clear statement in a desire to solve the problem of the Russophone population. Another reason why the document has not been adopted is that the problems are wider than the Baltic republics. In discussing the Baltic situation, we must not forget our own Russian problems. The debates have been very heated, but article-by-article discussion will no doubt produce an agreed draft, Volkogonov believes. He says that the joint militia-Army patrols would be all right if they were done by agreement with local soviets. If the Russian legislature concludes that a decree is not in line with the Constitution, it has the right to reject it.

The recorded report concludes at 1959 GMT.

Abdulatipov Addresses Legislature

LD3101000391 Moscow Central Television Second Program Network in Russian 1845 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Speech by Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, RSFSR, Supreme Soviet, at the RSFSR Supreme Soviet session in Moscow on 30 January—recorded]

[Text] We should keep in mind that the Russian state as a union of peoples was formed as such historically over centuries and by different methods. We must take into consideration that the Russian state was and should remain a whole entity. In this respect we must take into acocunt the fact that at the same time in the Russian Federation there are national-state entities which were incorporated and joined to this Russian state by various methods and at different stages. If one takes it piecemeal, we can arrive at contradictions that will not enable us to take into account and develop the federative structure of our state.

When we speak about the Russian Federation, we must proceed from the historic realities we come across today. In other words, the Russian Federation today includes national-state entities, national-territorial entities, and administrative-territorial entities. There have been various options and schemes; for example, on the formation of new republics, new regional entities, the formation of republics on the borders of various republics, if such a wish arose. Recently, schemes have appeared which say that all these entities should first be dissolved, and only after that, according to the wish of the people, republics, etc. will be formed. You understand that in the present situation such experiments are simply not permissible on such a sick body as our Russian Federation. Any transformations that touch on territorial changes automatically lead to conflicts of various kinds. That's why, not just for the fun of it, but indeed out of a strict necessity to take historical realities into account, we approached

the task of defining the subjects within this Federation, about which we are speaking.

We took into consideration the fact that literally almost all our republics took part in the processes of working on the Federation treaty. We invited specialists from krays and oblasts of the Russian Federation, and we announced a competition for a Federation treaty which in fact did not produce much. We attached our deputies—in this respect a great deal was done. In particular, we used the draft submitted by People's Deputies (Mozayev) and (Shilovkovedyay) as the basis for the draft we have today, of course, after further work on the main provisions of this treaty. That is, I mean that we involved literally everyone as far as it was possible to involve anyone today.

There were different versions. Some people said that the Russian Federation must be made up, for example, with only autonomous entities being subjects of the Federation, and no one else being a subject of the Federation. You have already witnessed at the First Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies what these contradictions lead to.

The second version was as follows: Everyone should be a republic. In particular, a similar version was proposed by the Constitutional Commission. Everyone is forming themselves into republics of the Russian Federation. Well, this version also increased contradictions between national-state and national-territorial entities. There were also drafts which allowed national-state, national-territorial, and administrative-territorial entities and national associations as subjects of the Federation. If one takes this path, such associations will appear not singly, but in scores and even hundreds.

Hence, we will form a very dim plan of the Federation itself. I stress once again that we arrived at the fact that the Russian Federation can include two variants of those classical federations which exist in our modern world today. The first variant is when national-state formations become subjects of federation. This is the most classical variant of the federative state. The second variant is when lands and states [zemli i shtaty]—in our case these are krays and oblasts of the Russian Federation—should also become subjects of the Russian Federation and should also have equal rights. I stress it once again, that they empower the Russian Federation to do certain things for them, and in this sense they have equal rights, as well as in the sense of voluntary entrusting, and in the sense of those powers they keep to themselves. These subjects should have equal rights in all spheres. The only thing which tells one from another is the presence or absence of attributes of statehood. Although, at the latest Council of the Federation, while discussing this we concluded that a good deal of normative acts, which regulate those powers krays and oblasts keep for themselves, they must adopt fully and regulate the relations within krays and oblasts as well.

I mean that simultaneously we arrived at the conclusion today that there is no need to envisage everything in the Federation treaty. We have the constitution for this matter. We think that the main subject of the Federation treaty is the differentiation of functions and powers between the Supreme Soviet—I mean bodies of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet—and subjects of the Federation. At the same time, we mean powers which have exceptional powers of the Russian Federation [as heard], I mean, it being a state formation, and joint powers which are being implemented. All other powers... well, there were attempts to envisage what every kray, oblast, and republic of the Russian Federation is going to do and hence to decide what is in their rights. We had another approach: that apart from those powers which they choose to be exceptional and joint ones, republics, krays, and oblasts have a right to deal on their own with all other issues, maybe even without any sort of consultations with the supreme bodies.

At the same time, the issue of the supremacy of laws has arisen. You are aware that this is a very sore issue which has produced a war of laws within our country. We have reached the conclusion that once again it is necessary to demarcate the supremacy of ideas and supremacy of laws. Within the framework of those powers delegated to the Russian Fedeation, all-Russian laws will be supreme; within the framework of those powers that republics, krays, and oblasts retain for themselves, their laws and their normative acts will be supreme. Thus on the issues of lawmaking, that is the legal mechanism and regulation, we are once again clearly defining the powers of both all-Russian bodies and the subjects of the Federation.

The main principles that we have employed and had in mind in the drafting of a Federation Treaty are the principle of the right of nations to self-determination in various forms; the principle of the existence of a country of state formations [as heard]; the principle of the equality of nations and nationalities, irrespective of where they reside; the principle of enhancing the status of republics of the Russian Federation; the principle of self-governent for the krays and oblasts of the Russian Federation; and the principle of protecting national minorities irrespective of where they are located.

Thus, the Federation treaty itself has been taking shape on the basis of these principles. I would emphasize yet again that even those points that we had in the first versions of a Federation treaty have become a component part of the amendments to the Constitution that we produced at the second extraordinary congress of the Russian Federation. This is why in the final version we narrowed down the subject of the Federation treaty. However, after a discussion in the Council of the Federation of a number of matters relating to the issues of ownership and a few other such issues, we have nevertheless brought them back from the Constitution to the Federation treaty. It seems to me that there should be an identical parity between the Federation treaty and the

Constitution, that is, once again they should be regulated, and one should not permit the legal anarchy that we are now encountering in practice at various levels. This is to say, all these matters and what we are putting into the Federation treaty itself should be regulated within the Constitution.

Nevertheless the main issue at present is the democratic development of our federated state on a basis, perhaps above all, of interethnic concord and peace.

The second thing we must lay down in the development of our Federation is the nonviolent development of the Federation and of interethnic relations. Such mechanisms must be enshrined in legislative acts which we must work out with you in the future following the conclusion of a federal treaty. We have agreed at the Federation Council that we are sending this federal treaty—with the agreement of all the subjects, and the Federation Council incorporates 88 of our adminstrative entities: the chairmen of the soviets are members—we are sending it to the localities, and at the same time to you, the people's deputies. You work on them and give your remarks. Remarks also come in at the same time from all the subjects of our Federation. We analyze all this together, and present a final draft to the Federation Council and Supreme Soviet for the signing of the federal treaty. It seems to me it would be a good idea—this is just my view, and this view has also been expressed at the Council of the Federation by certain comrades—if we could make a decision in the RSFSR and sign a federal treaty prior to the referendum on the Union treaty, i.e. prior to the conclusion of a Union treaty. This would enable us to express our viewpoint in the RSFSR context, in our Russian home, thereby preventing the autonomy of republics and so on being used to hamper this process.

This is particularly relevant because we envisage in the federal treaty that the republics of the Russian Federation will be parties to the Union treaty. Evidently the form of their participation will be determined by the final version of the federal treaty itself. That is what I can very briefly say. There are other things on each point. But I think that we've all taken part in this work. With that I shall end. Thank you for your attention.

Abdulatipov Answers Questions

LD3001234491 Moscow Central Television Second Program Network in Russian 1858 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Question and answer session with Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the RSFSR Soviet of Nationalities, at the RSFSR Supreme Soviet session in Moscow on 30 January—recorded]

[Text] [Vladimir Isakov, chairman of the Soviet of the Republic, who chairs the session] Can any RSFSR nation and ethnic group be a party to the federal treaty if it so desires? Is that a possible option?

[Abdulatipov] What I think is that, first, if we are talking of the subjects of the federation, and these subjects of the federation represent either an individual or collective form of national self-determination, these nations are already correspondingly a party to the federal treaty and to the conclusion of this federal treaty. That's the first point. Second, we committed a methodological mistake. I refer to the Marxists of the past. They made the following mistake. When talking of national self-determination, we used only to recognize the factor of territorial self-determination. But various forms of national self-determination exist. We used to limit ourselves exclusively in the past, and in today's processes we are limiting ourselves, to purely territorial forms of self-determination. It seems to me that there are various forms that do not necessarily involve a federal treaty directly, but which make it possible to protect one's ethnic culture, identity, and so on. I refer to ethnic-cultural autonomous entities, and other possible forms.

[Isakov] I see.

[Baburin] Deputy Baburin, Territorial Constituency No 539. Esteemed chairman, esteemed colleagues, unfortunately I sometimes get the impression that we have gotten so engrossed in economic and political experiments that we take completely no account of the consequences of our decisions. On the basis of the text of the draft federal treaty that we have at hand, it can be concluded that, whether the authors were aware of this or not, we have brought in as the basis of the document the principle that the Russian state no longer exists. If on the level of the Union we speak of concluding A union treaty and say that some leave and some remain, we are now attempting and proposing to do the same thing on the level of Russia. So my first question is what do you propose to do about those who refuse to sign a federal treaty? Does this mean that they have automatically left the Russian state?

[Abdulatipov] I think that the proposition that the Russian state no longer exists no longer works for us in this building. The thing is that there have been variants whereby it was proposed in this federal treaty to set up, for instance, an ethnic Russian state and afterward all the autonomous entities, and thus to conclude a treaty among them. This is an even worse variant for Russia and for the Russian people. You no doubt agree with me about this, Sergey Nikolayevich.

And the last thing is that no one, I stress no one, today has officially declared a possible secession from the Russian Federation. There are arguments about concluding a federal treaty. There are some who endlessly ask about Tatarstan already seceding from the Russian Federation. I have a letter from Shaymiyev—I don't know if I should read it. It was written to Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin after the adoption of the declaration of sovereignty, and there isn't a word there about seceding from the Russian Federation. This was after the adoption of the declaration of sovereignty of Tatarstan. So we

shouldn't ourselves hype up allegations that someone is seceding from the Russian Federation.

You will no doubt remember Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev saying that it was impossible to secede from the USSR. And it is 10 times more impossible to secede from the RSFSR given other parameters: the structure of the populations of the republics of the RSFSR, and owing to the historical ties that exist in the RSFSR, and owing to the dozens of other political, economic, intellectual, moral and cultural factors which create genuine cohesion. So in its statements, the Soviet of Nationalities always refers to people of the Russian Federation—not Russians, or Kalmyks, Chechens, Ingushi, Avartsy, and so on, but people of the Russian Federation. One of the purposes of the federal treaty is to establish a people of the Russian Federation, to create a Russian Federation home. Without that, it isn't needed. And that there is no need to convene a Congress of Soviets is demonstrated by the fact that all the subjects of the federation are actively taking part in this process of discussion, and at the same time deputies as well—this is also a congress of soviets in some measure.

Provisions of Draft Federal Treaty Outlined

LD3001120991 Moscow TASS in English 1120 GMT 30 Jan 91

[By TASS legislative correspondent]

[Text] Moscow January 30 TASS—"It would be good, if we manage to sign a Federal Treaty before a referendum on the Union treaty is held," Chairman of the Russian parliament's Chamber of Nationalities Ramazan Abdulatipov said today. The all-Union referendum is scheduled for March 17.

Submitting the draft treaty to the Russian parliament, Abdulatipov favoured signing a federal treaty of the Russian Federation as soon as possible.

According to the draft, national-state, national-territorial and administrative territorial formations, i.e. republics, autonomous regions and districts, territories and regions will be subjects of the Russian Federation. Participants in the treaty will "unite with other sovereign republics in the Union of Soviet Republics".

The draft proclaims common citizenship in the Russian Federation and guarantees citizens' equal rights in all spheres.

"The direct or indirect limitation of citizens' rights and freedoms, depending on social origin, social or property status, education, line and character of occupation, party membership, political conviction and attitude to religion, is forbidden," the draft reads.

The subjects of the Federation are to be equal in their basic political And economic rights. Participants in the treaty delegation to the Russian Federation the elaboration and adoption of federal constitutional legislation, legislation on human rights and combating crime, regulation of property issues, price formation and taxation, common banking and taxation systems, currency and customs policies, transport, communications and power engineering, the draft reads. [sentence as received]

A number of issues, first and foremost in the social and cultural sphere, fall within the joint competence of the Russian Federation and its subjects.

After its submission to parliament today, the draft will be thorcughly discussed. The debates will not be easy, as many speakers today said the draft had not been sufficiently prepared.

Volkogonov Suggests Joint Patrols With 'Consent'

LD3001235591 Moscow Central Television Second Program Network in Russian 1845 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Interview with Dmitriy Volkogonov, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR) Supreme Soviet deputy, by unidentified reporter in the foyer outside the RSFSR Supreme Soviet session in Moscow on 30 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] What is your point of view in general regarding the decision on the political situation in the country and the RSFSR?

[Volkogonov] Well, indeed, I think that even now there is little chance of the decision being adopted. [passage omitted] At present a great many people are interested in and obsessed by in particular the issue connected with the decisions adopted by the two ministers and then consolidated by the president's decree on joint military patrols with the militia. What is my personal attitude to this since there are very many issues involved? I personally believe that this patrolling is possible and perhaps even necessary, but only with the consent of the local soviets—the city soviet, the oblast soviet—that is to say, in places where there is a need for this. It is possible that—if the soviet so decides—then such patrolling may be carried out. However, in places where the soviet, say—the city soviet, the oblast soviet, the republican soviet—believes that there is no need for it at all, I believe that this patrolling is superfluous. That is to say, this must without fail be agreed upon by the lawful constitutional organs of government.

[Reporter] Well, this is a presidential decree. Therefore such a presidential decree must also be compulsory, as I understand it, for the oblast soviet and for the rayon soviet and for the city soviet. So, how can the president's decree be reconciled with the unwillingness, for instance, of the oblast soviet for patrolling to take place in its oblast.

[Volkogonov] The Russian legislature has taken the decision that the president's decree must agreed with our Constitution and with the declaration on sovereignty. If the Russian legislature believes that this does not fit within the boundaries of sovereignty it has the right to

suspend its validity. At any rate, I believe that it would be in the interests of both the decree itself and of the president for these decisions to be agreed with the soviets as the local lawful organs of government in every oblast and in every republic.

Moscow Militia Member on Joint Patrol Decree

LD2901150791

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0640 GMT on 29 January broadcasts a five-minute interview with Vladimir Andreyevich Rebrekov, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic people's deputy and member of the Moscow militia, by correspondent Vera Shchelkunova on the decree on joint patrols. Rebrekov opens by saying: "On the whole, attitudes to this decree are negative." He sees this decree as being one of a number of acts adopted recently, such as the decree on monetary reform, which aim to take the situation in hand.

Rebrekov goes on to say that "what makes me personally wary of this decree is that it is not so much concerned with the creation of normal conditions for the preservation of law and order, but rather aims first and foremost to strengthen what we call central power, to strengthen that very same Union sovereignty, and in every way create obstacles in the way of the realization of sovereignty by the independent state entities in the form of republics."

Shchelkunova puts forward the view that people will be intimidated by the Army presence. Rebrekov comments that the justification for the decree has been the fact that the number of serious crimes has been increasing. Some of the crimes specified include the vandalizing of historical statues, and Rebrekov reminds Shchelkunova that an earlier presidential decree ordered that 1,000 militiamen in Moscow Oblast alone be seconded to guard these monuments around the clock. "These are exactly the places where those very same forces, which should be used to preserve public order, are used irrationally," says Rebrekov, and continues: "You know, if you analyze this directly, then it works out like this: An attempt is being made, by means of this decree, to compensate for the inadequacies and incompetence of the commanders, and so on, and to place everyone in the conditions of soldiers, so that everyone feels as if they are in a barracks. As we know, the four major demonstrations in Moscow have all ended peacefully. In spite of all sorts of incitement and all sorts of predictions that it would all end in bloodshed, they have all passed off peacefully—and only due to the fact that those very forces that guarantee law and order were neutral. They were in no way directly involved in the organization of this, which is even more the case with the military subunits. They were standing to one side, and their vehicles were standing to one side."

Shchelkunova concludes from what Rebrekov has said that in effect what has happened is that a state of emergency has been introduced, without being officially declared, and that the use of such large forces to cover these situations only leaves thieves with even more freedom to ply their trade.

Rebrekov concludes: "I consider that this act is wholly and completely directed toward the limitation of those forms of democracy that have started to flourish to such a degree."

Moscow Garrison Chief Says No Joint Patrols Yet

PM3001115391 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jan 91 p 1

[Report by A. Krayniy under the general heading: "Calm, Only Calm"]

[Text] Colonel General N. Kalinin:

"As commander of Moscow Military District and chief of the capital's garrison, I can say that as yet there have been no changes in the organization of the patrol service in the city. I have not yet received the joint written order of the defense and internal affairs ministers, and so it would be premature to speak of fulfilling it.

"The same number of military patrols is in the city today as one week and one month ago. No additional troops have been brought in. Patrols are serving without weapons and, accordingly, without combat hardware. Telephone in a couple of days, and there might be news. But, in general, I wish to point out that the measures spoken of in the joint order were taken after the war, and then the efforts of the Army and the militia succeeded in curbing the growth of crime."

Legislative Chambers Adopt Differing Resolutions

LD3001182191 Moscow TASS in English 1756 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 30 TASS—In an unprecedented development today, the two chambers of the Russian parliament passed two differing resolutions on the political situation in Russia.

The first attempt to pass a resolution came at the beginning of the session on January 21. Today, two new drafts added to three previous ones that had been discussed and were rejected.

They differ in tonality and sharpness of evaluation of the situation in the republic and the country. Both documents condemn the use of armed forces to settle internal problems. Members of the Council of the republic, focussed attention on recent tragic events in Lithuania and asked the Soviet parliament and the USSR president to "discuss personal responsibility of officials" guilty in these events.

In contrast, a resolution by the Council of Nationalities does not mention the Baltic republics but calls for a work to "expedite laws on reforms in the Army, the KGB and the Interior Ministry" on the Union level.

There are other differences. The key task now is to link the two drafts together. A conciliation commission set up by the parliament will tackle this.

The chambers also discussed temporary regulations about Russia's pension fund. A document, enumerating them, and a measure specifying regulations on insurance installments, were passed without difficulty.

Under Soviet Government decisions, all working citizens will pay one per cent of their wages to the pension fund. Organisations and enterprises will pay 20.6 per cent of employee wage total to the fund. The temporary regulations will be effective during 1991. After that the Russian parliament will discuss the issue in line with accumulated experience.

Deputy Russian Social Welfare Minister Aleksandr Kurtin, a 42-year-old economist, won confirmation for board chairman of the Russian Federation pension fund.

The Russian parliament will hold a plenary session on Thursday [31 January]. The republic's government is expected to report on Russia's economic and social policy.

Yeltsin Attacks 'Dirty' Military Campaign

LD3101110291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1022 GMT 31 Jan 91

[By TASS legislative correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 31 Jan (TASS)—Boris Yeltsin, Russia's Supreme Soviet chairman, speaking today at a plenary sitting of the republican legislature accused "not only the generals but also certain party structures" of launching a vigorous campaign to discredit the Russian legislature and himself personally. He spoke out about this in connection with SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA's publication today of an open letter from a group of top military leaders who accuse him of "dislocating the army".

According to him, "because of the paucity of information people do not know what the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet and its leadership are doing and certain organizations are making use of this in order to conduct this dirty campaign. We must make our policy and our standpoint clear, and say that we favor the Union, we favor the existence of an army".

Lately certain media, especially that under the Communist Party's control, has been accusing Boris Yeltsin of intending to create a republican army.

The Russian legislature head emphasized that the republican Supreme Soviet will "discuss the outline for the RSFSR's defense and security". "This will not be Yeltsin's opinion, but that of the Supreme Soviet" session, the Russian Supreme Soviet chairman said.

Party Leaders Ask RSFSR To Sign Union Treaty

LD3001121391 Moscow World Service in Russian 1030 GMT 30 Jan 91

[INTERFAX report; from the "Soviet Chronical" feature of the "Soviet Union Day by Day" program] txt [Text] The main task in the modern development of the country is to preserve the Soviet Union. This is what the leaders of the regional communist organizations have stated in Siberia. At a meeting in Tomsk, they expressed themselves in favor of strengthening the sovereignty of Russia, existing like the other republics in indissoluble unity within the Soviet Union.

The party activists called on the leadership of the Russian Federation to be the first to sign the new Union treaty which would, by example, become a powerful stabilizing factor and would be an initiative of enormous historical significance. [passage indistinct]

Dagestan Legislature Favors Remaining in Union

LD2901175891 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1530 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Report by correspondent D. Beybutov from Dagestan with recorded remarks by B.G. Akhmedov, first deputy chairman of the Dagestan Supreme Soviet; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Summary] The Supreme Soviet of Daghestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] at its current session announced that the republic advocates the signing of the Union treaty. Although there was heated debate on many other questions on the agenda, on the draft of the new Union treaty the session participants expressed themselves unambiguously: "Daghestan is for the preservation of the Union." The republic has not adopted a declaration on sovereignty. It remains in the Russian Federation.

[Akhmedov] The debates at the session and in the public show that there is an unambiguous attitude toward the draft of the new Union treaty although there are a number of provisions which need clarification. The draft Union treaty stresses that all republics are equal, but Article 15 says that the Cabinet of Ministers is formed of chairmen of the Cabinets of Ministers of Union republics. In that case, the head of our government will not belong to it. There are many points to clear up. "But on one thing we are united, that the Union treaty is needed. This is a factor which unites our peoples. It is a way out of the interethnic relations which have taken shape and great hopes should be pinned on the Union treaty."

Klaipeda Group Blasts Yeltsin Army Proposal

91UN0796B Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 25 Jan 91 First Edition p 3

[Letter from the Council of the Russian culture society 'Fatherland' in Klaipeda to the USSR Supreme Soviet and the RSFSR Supreme Soviet: "Concern For the Future"]

[Text] The Russian culture society Fatherland of the city of Klaipeda [Lithuania] by this statement expresses the views of the numerous Russians who live in Klaipeda and who resolutely protest the statement made by B.N. Yeltsin at the news conference on the situation in the Baltic republics. B.N. Yeltsin promises help and support only to "democratically" minded Russians, that is, only to those who support the Landsbergis regime and have long ago given up the honor and dignity of a Russian in exchange for personal well-being. However, it is not only concern for our future and outrage at the betrayal being committed toward the Russians in the Baltics, but also our fear for Russia that compel us to protest against Yeltsin's politics.

From his visit to the Baltics, where blood has already been spilled, Boris Nikolayevich drew the conclusion that Russia will also have to defend its sovereignty and therefore needs its own army. An army in the hands of such politician will turn into an apparatus of repression, with the help of which he will defend "his democracy."

Yeltsin's attacks on the Soviet Army and against the USSR president are designed to incite. We are witness to the fact that a large-scale provocation on the part of nationalistic separatists in Lithuania was thwarted only because of the self-possession of the Soviet officers and soldiers. Having acquainted ourselves with the documents from the department of kray protection, we have realized the full degree of the peril that is facing the people, no matter what nationality they are. Yeltsin's betrayal and the terror planned by the nationalists make us understand clearly that our hope and support lie with the USSR and the Soviet Army.

All responsibility for the spilled blood should be laid upon the Lithuanian Supreme Council and government, on the instigators and defenders, and on Yeltsin personally. If you want to follow Yeltsin's course, the whole of Russia will be covered with common graves. Who will answer for this then?

The quick reaction to the Lithuanian events displayed by a large number of foreign politicians before the unfolding situation could even be evaluated shows pathological hatred toward the USSR and makes one doubt the correctness of the policy of sharp reductions in the defense capabilities of our state. The USSR president and the minister of defense should immediately explain to the people the doctrine of reasonable sufficiency of the USSR Armed Forces.

[Signed] Council of the Russian culture society Fatherland, Secretary of the Society N.V. Soloviev

Russians, Lithuanians Discuss Bilateral Treaty

LD3001153591 Moscow TASS in English 1524 GMT 30 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow January 30 TASS—Delegations from the Russian Republic and Lithuania opened talks here today.

The Lithuanian permanent mission in Moscow said the delegations, led by Gennadiy Burbulis, plenipotentiary representative of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, and Lithuanian Vice-President Ceslovas Stankiavicius, are discussing a bilateral treaty.

Yeltsin met both delegations today to be briefed on the progress of the talks and the achieved understandings. The meeting, which lasted for about an hour, included an exchange of opinions on pressing political matters.

The Lithuanian mission's press secretary said that "the talks are going constructively and can be expected completed very soon".

Agreemeent on Draft Treaty Reached

LD3101102191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0910 GMT 31 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow, 31 Jan (TASS)—Late yesterday evening, talks between representatives of the Russian Federation and Lithuania ended. Osvaldas Smurkevicius, an adviser at Lithuania's permanent mission in Moscow, told your TASS correspondent that the delegations from the two republics—headed by Gennadiy Burbulis, authorized Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet chairman's representative and Ceslovas Stankevicius, Lithuanian parliament deputy chairman—reached an agreement on the draft text of a bilateral treaty.

According to Osvaldas Smurkevicius, his delegation reserved the right "to make purely editorial amendments to the text of the draft treaty which do not influence its general intent".

He said that the sides will agree on a date for signing the treaty soon.

Western Republics

Belorussia Opposes Presidential Decree

LD2901230491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1710 GMT 29 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents Vladimir Glod and Aleksandr Kryzhanovskiy]

[Text] Minsk, 29 Jan (TASS)—The Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] Supreme Soviet resumed work today after a week's recess. It was, however, unable to continue the debate on the draft law "on the priority socioeconomic development of the countryside and the agro-industrial complex."

Opposition deputies of the Belorussian legislature demanded a change in the session agenda, and to bring forward discussion of the USSR president's decree "on measures to ensure the fight against economic sabotage and other crimes in the economic sphere." They described this document as "anticonstitutional", and "running counter to the sovereignty of the republic."

Later, there was discussion of the question connected with the decision adopted by the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on organizing preparations for and the holding of a referendum in Belorussia on the preservation of the USSR. The majority of deputies supported the main points of this document.

In the second half of the day the parliamentarians continued discussion of the law on the priority development of the countryside.

Majority Vote Backs Moldovan Party Unity

PM3001125991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by Eduard Kondratov under "Direct Link" rubric: "Split Did Not Occur"]

[Text] Kishinev—The republic party conference has demonstrated that Moldova's communists do not intend to allow a split and want to show themselves to be the leading political force.

Delegates from party organizations in the Dnestr region made many complaints about the work of the Moldovan Communist Party Central Committee and distributed their own alternative program document. The majority of them, however, voted for the resolution "On the Political Position of the Moldovan Communist Party Central Committee" proposed by the Central Committee, which sets the goal of reviving the Moldovan nation, settling interethnic relations, and preventing the trampling of human rights, regardless of a person's nationality and convictions.

The conference approved the Moldovan Communist Party Statutes and adopted an appeal to peasants, workers, and the intelligentsia and also resolutions on the party's youth policy and on the communists' social aid fund and the protection of their honor and dignity.

A rally organized by the "16 December" alliance for independence in the city's central square was the response to the party forum. Appeals to resist the conclusion of the Union treaty, to prevent a referendum, and to struggle for the restoration of unity with the motherland of Romania were heard there in addition to anticommunist slogans. However, this time the rally was not as large as usual.

Party Leader Views Meeting

LD2901183591 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1350 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Interview with Petr Luchinskiy, first secretary of the Communist Party of Moldova Central Committee, by correspondent Mikhail Tsakerka; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Things are not easy for us in our country at the moment, but there do occur points of particular tension, and we have decided to be there as far as possible with the help of our correspondents. So here is one of these hot spots, one on which the attention of everybody was recently fixed. We are going to turn to events in Moldova, very important events in its life. We have already told you that a republican conference of the Communist Party [CP] of Moldova has been held in Kishinev. So here is the corresponding comment on this event. Over to our correspondent Mikhail Tsakerka.

[Begin recording] [Tsakerka] There is no argument that the CP of Moldova is not today living through its best days. Despite the program of renewal adopted seven months ago at the 17th congress of the CP of Moldova and the energetic measures undertaken to rectify the mistakes of the past, it is frequently criticized from both left and right. Some criticize it for passivity and indecisiveness, others for supporting certain political trends, while yet others try to undermine its authority from within. The situation is also exacerbated today by the fact that certain communists of the Dnestr region are advocating formation of their own party, an opposition one with regard to the CP of Moldova. Such are the circumstances in which the republican party conference took place, discussing two very important issues: the rules of the CP of Moldova, and the (?political) activities of the Central Committee and practical tasks of the CP of Moldova.

I am now asking Petr Kirillovich Luchinskiy, first secretary of the CP of Moldova Central Committee, to talk about some results of the conference's work.

[Luchinskiy] The organization, in accordance with the CPSU rules, is independent; that is, we should have our own rules and our own party program. I do not wish to say that they are different in principle from the CPSU rules; they take them as their basis, but there are a number of points which set them apart and reflect features of the republic, otherwise there would be no point in adopting them. Let us look at one point of principle: We not only recognize freedom of conscience, but we also reckon that participation of a CPSU member in folk traditions, and even in some religious rites, is his personal matter, as a manifestation of freedom of conscience.

Now, the next point: We have the concept of supporters of the party. It is a requirement of the rules, and the article asserts that we will support them and stay in touch.

There is one interesting point. At the beginning of all this euphoria of democracy, so to speak, they were talking about giving everything over to the primary organizations. Now that we have talked it over with the primary organizations, we have come to the conclusion that the higher elected party bodies should have some rights, too. And so, in our organization, primary party organizations can accept members, for example, but the bureau of the rayon party committee can also accept them in certain exceptional circumstances, when such situations arise. Higher elected bodies can annul the decisions of a primary party organization if there are sufficient grounds.

[Tsakerka] Petr Kirillovich, you have spoken about discipline in the party. It struck me that at the conference, all the same, the idea of a split was in the air.

[Luchinskiy] It was not just in the air; it was one of the reasons for convening our conference. The situation in the republic is such that (?this work) is in progress. They have been declaring the formation of new independent republics, and so in many organizations on the left shore and to a lesser degree in the south they have been saying that we should split according to our positions of principle. Much work has been carried out. There have been many meetings, debates, and polemics, but for the sake of the interests of the common cause, for the sake of preserving the republic, we must not now retire to our various corners and draw people along with us, thus leading to greater confrontation.

For that reason, it is this common sense which triumphed, and you have seen the satisfaction with which the conference completed its work. You know that it worked out the CP program, and we have officially taken this proposal to the Supreme Soviet. It is on the basis of this accord that a common language can be found, and we can move ahead and tackle the complex problems which have arisen in our society. [end recording]

Moldovan Presidential Council Raps Government

LD2901224191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1617 GMT 29 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Kishinev, 29 Jan (TASS)—The work of the Moldovan Government, headed by Mircha Druk, has been unsatisfactory in the socioeconomic sphere. This was the conclusion drawn by members of the republican Presidential Council, which has been examining this question at an extended session here.

Moldovan President Mircha Snegur stressed that there had been an obvious regress in some spheres of the economy. He said that a pitiful situation had developed in capital construction, especially in the housing sector. Head of cattle and the level of output of agricultural production in the republic had been reduced substantially. Light industrial capacities are not being properly utilized. There is a virtual absence of coordination in the work of Union-subordinated enterprises. The fulfillment of the plans of food industry enterprises is under threat. There has been a clear breakdown in integral ties with enterprises of other republics. Many enterprises in Moldova will soon be forced to stop production because of a lack of raw materials.

Instead of organizing governmental work to solve economic issues, it was noted at the session, Prime Minister Mircha Druk is making visits abroad, many of which are of a tourist nature. That is why demands for the resignation of the Moldovan Government are being heard ever more persistently, not only within the walls of parliament, but also in various regions of the republic.

Crimea Requests Approval of ASSR Status

PM2901155791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jan 91 Second Edition p 1

[Report by V. Vasilets under the rubric "After the Referendum": "Crimea Has Made Its Choice"]

[Text] Simferopol—Last Thursday, having approved the referendum results, a session of the Crimean Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies adopted an address to the supreme legislative organ of the Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] requesting that the will of the peoples of the Crimea be enshrined in law, and asking it to address itself in turn to the Congress of USSR People's Deputies with a request to approve the formation of the Crimean ASSR [Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic].

PRAVDA has already reported on the nationwide referendum in the Crimea. Some 81.3 percent of the adult population took part in determining the future status of the region; 93.3 percent of those who took part in the ballot declared that a Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic should be created on the peninsula within the Ukrainian SSR, as a subject of the USSR and a party to the Union treaty.

The choice of the multinational population of this resort region is clear. The Crimea is the first region in the country to set an example of a lawful, democratic solution of the question of the region's statehood. There are no rallies in the squares today, and life in the oblast has returned to normal.

During the preparations for the referendum the oblast communists were faced with the question of how to reach every citizen. The communists' experience of work among the masses came in useful here. City and rayon committee plenums and primary organization meetings were held. Party members visited labor collectives and organized meetings with citizens at their places of residence. A forgotten word—"counterpropaganda"—also had to be recalled.

The point is that in a number of cities and villages the "Rukh crowd" and representatives of the Ukrainian Republican Party appeared with their nationalist slogans. The propagandists and political information officers declared an open struggle against their ideas. The [Communist] Party publishing house printed 150,000 posters, leaflets, and pamphlets explaining the essense and purpose of the referendum.

You frequently hear nowadays that people will not go to polling stations, that their political activeness has subsided, that social apathy has set in. This is true, but only where active organizational work has been replaced by rally mania, mob gatherings, vacuous appeals, and empty declarations. The inhabitants of the Crimea organized a population census on their own initiative. That meant that representatives of 32 city and rayon, seven settlement, and 62 rural polling station commissions called on 1,770,000 people asking them to declare their opinion on the region's status. The answer has been received. The statehood of the Crimean ASSR will enable it to become a full-fledged master on its own territory.

Another document was adopted at the session. It states: "The Oblast Soviet has decided to ask the USSR and Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviets not to hold in the Crimean Oblast the USSR referendum on the question of preserving the USSR as a federation of equal states, and instead to take into account the results of the referendum held in the Crimea when summing up the results of the future vote in the Ukrainian SSR."

Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium Meets

LD3001133291 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1745 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Good evening, esteemed listeners. I will start this bulletin with an official report on today's regular session of the republican Supreme Soviet Presidium. The issues of organization and measures to guarantee holding of the all-Union referendum on the territory of our republic on 17 March this year have been discussed at the session. Having expressed its support for holding the all-Union referendum in the republic, the Presidium recognized it as necessary to submit the issue of the ballot's text for consideration by the Supreme Soviet. An appeal from the Crimea Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies about reinstitution of the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. [sentence as heard] The materials have been handed over to a number of commissions which have been instructed to prepare appropriate propositions and submit this question to a plenary session of the Supreme Soviet. A number of other issues of the republic's state life have also been examined at the Presidium session. Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, chaired the session.

Talks Between Ukraine Government, Miners Continue

LD2901105291 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 29 Jan 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] Talks between miners and the government of the Ukraine are continuing. The miners are insisting on their previous demands. According to the POSTFAKTUM report, Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin said that he recognizes the demands of the miners, and will do everything possible to see that the miners live in decent conditions.

Donetsk Conference To View Ties With RSFSR

LD2901112791 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] An interrepublican conference will be arranged in Donetsk at the beginning of February to discuss ways of implementing the treaty between the Ukraine and Russia which was concluded last year. People's deputies of various levels and economic leaders will take part in it. The POSTFAKTUM agency adds that observers from Belorussia and Kazakhkstan are expected to attend the conference.

Ukraine To Retain Retail Prices of Some Goods

LD2901145191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1240 GMT 29 Jan 91

[By TASS-UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksandr Litvinov]

[Text] Kiev, 29 Jan (TASS-UKRINFORM)—The situation that has evolved in connection with the raising by the Union Government of the purchase and wholesale prices of all goods and services was discussed at a sitting of the Council of Ministers of the Ukraine. With the aim of guaranteeing the population's social protection, the government of the republic has decided to preserve for a long period retail prices on the sale from state stocks of meat and meat products, milk and dairy items, eggs, bread and bakery products, flour, groats, macaroni, sugar, tea, fish products, salt, sunflower oil, margarine, food concentrates, medicines, tobacco products, and children's goods.

The difference between the wholesale accounting [raschetnyy] and retail prices of these goods will be reimbursed from republican and local budgets.

Caucasus

Georgia Approves Decision To Form Army

LD3001120291 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] The legislature of Georgia has approved a decision on setting up its own army, subordinate to the

republic's minister of internal affairs. A representative of the republic's legislature reported this to an AFP correspondent in a telephone interview from Tbilisi. A report circulated by the agency states that the legislature also voted against the joint order by the ministers of defense and internal affairs of the USSR on the introduction of joint patrols from 1 February, calling it a contradiction of the Constitution and leading to the establishment of dictatorship.

Conscription Plans Outlined

LD3001172391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1538 GMT 30 Jan 91

[By SAKARTVELO correspondents Eduard Ediberidze and Tengiz Grigalashvili]

[Text] Tbilisi, 30 Jan (TASS)—The Georgian Supreme Soviet session under way here has decided to suspend in the territory of this Transcaucasian republic the order by the USSR Ministries of Defense and Internal Affairs on joint patrols in the streets of the capitals of Union and autonomous republics by members of the militia and representatives of the Soviet Army.

The session resolved to declare conscription into the ranks of the internal troops national guard of Georgia in 1991. The national guard being established here is called upon to defend the interests of the motherland, its territorial integrity, and the constitutional rights of citizens.

According to the provisional statute on conscription, Georgian male citizens who have reached 18 years and also conscripts up to 25 years old who have lost their rights to benefits and deferment in conscription to military service are being conscripted to active military service. It has also been decided to meet requests by servicemen who voluntarily left the ranks of the Soviet Army and to include them in the internal troops national guard.

Youths will undertake military service, the period for which has been set at two years, on the territory of Georgia. Individuals who are undertaking or who have already undertaken alternative service are released from conscription, and also those who are supporting a wife and children, disabled parents, or sisters and brothers. The only sons of a family are not being conscripted into compulsory military service.

Georgia To Boycott USSR Federation Referendum

LD3001192191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1832 GMT 30 Jan 91

[By TASS-SAKINFORM correspondent Eduard Ediberidze]

[Text] Tbilisi, 30 Jan (TASS)—The Georgian Supreme Soviet adopted a decision today on this republic's nonparticipation in the referendum scheduled for 17 March this year on the preservation of the USSR as a federation of equal sovereign republics. It has decided to carry out a republican referendum in which the population will express its views about the future of their republic on 31 March this year—the day of elections to local organs of power in Georgia.

Independence Vote Set for 31 Mar

AU3101105791 Tbilisi Domestic Service in Georgian 0500 GMT 31 Jan 91

[Excerpt] The Georgian Supreme Soviet discussed the question of the future Union referendum and adopted the decision that the Republic of Georgia will not participate in the referendum [word indistinct] will organize a republican referendum on 31 March of this year in which the Georgian people will express their attitude to the question of Georgian independence. [passage omitted]

Situation in South Ossetia Updated 30 Jan

LD3001120691 Moscow TASS in English 1145 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 30 TASS—Reports reaching the Soviet Interior Ministry task force troops from South Ossetia say that talks between the opposing sides resulted in an accord to withdraw Georgian Interior Ministry police units from the city of Tskhinvali.

Their number in the area, where a state of emergency had been declared, stood at several thousand people early this year. Their strength has now been significantly reduced.

Illegally armed groups, which number some 500 people, in Tskhinvali and several settlements in the region, have an adverse impact on the situation. Their presence invokes unfavourable criticism among the local population. People fear provocations by militants and demand that they withdraw from the area where the emergency regulations are in force.

Patrolling troops at the check-point detained Dioyev, an Ossetian by nationality, during a curfew on January 28. They seized from him three carbines, a home-made grenade and ammunition.

On the same day, soldiers detained nine Georgians who were carrying a pistol, carbine, grenades, including home-made ones, seven sporting guns and ammunition.

Troops detained as many as 160 people for violating the curfew on the night of January 28 and seized 70 firearms. Most of them were found at a militants' headquarters in Eredvi village near Tskhinvali.

Official Arrested; Patrols Continue

LD3001210191 Moscow World Service in English 2000 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Another report from Tbilisi says that the chairman of the Soviet of People's Deputies of South

Ossetia, Tores Kulumbegov, has been detained. He was arrested by Georgian police when he was on his way for talks with the Georgian leadership.

In Tskhinvali, the center of South Ossetia, barricades have begun to be put up again. During the unrest several houses had been burned down and there were casualties. The streets of the city continue to be patrolled by Georgian police and USSR Interior Ministry troops.

Armed Clash Occurs 31 Jan

LD3101120691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1139 GMT 31 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 31 Jan, (TASS)—A TASS correspondent has been told by the operational group of USSR Interior Ministry troops that on the night of 30-31 January, while patrolling the road leading from Tskhinvali to the populated point of Tamarasheni, a troops detailed discovered a barrier. While they were attempting to clear it away, the servicemen came under fire and were forced to return fire. The attackers were detained. Two carbines, an automatic weapon, a revolver, ammunition, and five grenades were confiscated. One of the attackers was wounded and has been hospitalized. An investigation is under way.

Propaganda Head on Party Publications in Georgia

LD3001140491 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Interview with G. Talakvadze, head of the Agitation and Propaganda Department of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, by unidentified correspondent, place and date not given; from the "Television News Service" program—recorded]

[Text] There is a conference of first secretaries of the Communist Parties of the Union republics, krays, and oblasts in Moscow today.

[Correspondent] You represent the Communists of Georgia in the Supreme Soviet. There was information in the "Vremya" program that your publishing house is not publishing your own newspapers. Does this correspond to reality?

[Talakvadze] The information broadcast in the "Vremya" program was, frankly, unexpected.

[Correspondent] Is your newspaper being published?

[Talakvadze] Our newspaper will, evidently, come out on Thursday or on Saturday. All matters relating to its publication were, in principle, resolve long ago. At present the Communist Party of Georgia Central Committee has made a decision to publish one newspaper and one journal: The newspaper KHOVREBA—in translation LIFE—and the journal (?SASRIZI)—VIEW in Russian. There are no problems with publication, I repeat, but the fact that the publishing house of the Communist Party of Georgia Central Committee did not previously serve, and still more will not today exclusively serve the Central Committee, is, I think, entirely natural and clear. I repeat that this is one of the largest publishing resources in the republic, and it will serve the interests of the whole republic.

Armenian Legislature Adopts Land Use Law

LD3001222591 Moscow TASS in English 2134 GMT 30 Jan 91

[By ARMENPRESS-TASS correspondents Garriy Galustyan and Gagik Melkumyan]

[Text] Yerevan January 30 TASS—Following days-long discussion, the Armenian parliament today adopted a "law on individual peasant farms and collective farms". It determines economic and organisational terms and a legal basis for their activity, a procedure for the provision of land for ownership and, and the sale of the fixed assets and other property of collective and state farms that are being liquidated.

The law envisages a procedure for the provision of a land plot of a certain size to land user for full ownership free of charge. Vacant land will be allotted first of all to former farmers and the personnel of nearby industrial enterprises.

Provision is made for the preservation of profitable farms but with a substantial adjustment: Any producer is not only the master of the products made but he may also withdraw, if he so wishes, from the collective, and have his share of contribution fully compensated.

This document which is directed towards further economic and social development of the republic is intended to regulate land relations in Armenia, ensure effective utilisation and protection of land, the conservation and development of the natural environment and create conditions for equal development of all types of farming on the basis of the diversity of forms of ownership and to strengthen legality in the sphere of land relations.

The land code ranks among the earlier adopted fundamental documents—a law on state property and a law on property in the Republic of Armenia.